

Friday September 27 1996
Abu Dhabi D.R.50
Algeria L.220
Andorra FF.20
Australia A\$ 2.00
Austria S. 13.76
Belgium BF.66
Brazil R\$ 9.90
Canada C\$ 1.50
Czechia CZK 12.50
Denmark D. 11.48
Ecuador C\$ 1.50
Finland FM 12
France F. 10
Germany DM 3.50
Greece D. 340
Hong Kong HK\$ 2.50
Hungary Ft. 200
India INR 12.50
Indonesia Rp 9.90
Italy L. 200
Japan Y. 100
Korea K\$ 150
Kuwait KD 0.50
Latvia L\$ 2.00
Lithuania Lt 2.00
Luxembourg LF 66
Malaysia M. 2.70
Malta M. 0.43
Mauritius M. 2.50
Netherlands G 4.00
Norway NK 10
Oman O.R. 10
Pakistan R 70
Poland Z. 20
Portugal E 240
Romania R 2.40
Russia US\$ 2.00
Saudi Arabia R 10
Slovakia S. 20
Slovenia S. 20
Spain P. 20
Sweden S. 7.20
Switzerland S. 20
Taiwan NT\$ 20
Thailand B. 10
Turkey TL 100.00
USA US\$ 2.00

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Friday Review



The Last Don: Mario Puzo scores another Mafia hit
Cover story



What's a nice girl like Claudia doing with Abel Ferrara?
Screen, pages 8/9

Crude, cruel, brutal

55 dead as West tries to halt mayhem

Derek Brown in Ramallah

IT IS a ripping noise, like canvas tearing, a dull ripple of sound bouncing from hillsides and buildings and making the air vibrate with tiny shockwaves. It is the din of war, made by a heavy calibre machine-gun.



A wounded Palestinian man is carried away from the violent clashes that left over 50 people dead in Ramallah

Israel pays price for 'inane trick'

Commentary
Martin Woollacott

WHATEVER could be said for or against them in the past, Israeli leaders have been professionals, recognising realities and reacting to them. The terrible consequences of having in power in Jerusalem a leader who is inept and inexperienced as well as wrong-headed can now be seen in the West Bank and Gaza.

The United States President Bill Clinton, with customary reluctance to attribute blame — except to terrorists, Islamists and other Arabs — urged both sides to end the violence, and said he deeply regretted the loss of life (at the latest count 44 Palestinians and 11 Israelis).

The Jerusalem road being closed, it was necessary to bypass Ramallah by the new road Israel has built for the use — though not exclusively — of the Jewish settlers who live in the fortified ghettos of the West Bank.

Most strolled with apparent unconcern, or chatted, or grinned at the foreign press. They waved at the Palestinian forces in their beaten up pick-ups, and glanced incuriously at the ambulances speeding by. And all the while

politely waved cars in the direction of the fighting. Half a mile down the road, other courteous cops apologetically stopped traffic. From there, it was a 10-minute walk to the war.

There was anger on the street, and fear. But there was also a sense almost of exultation. For once the Palestinians were standing firm, and hitting back with live ammunition.

Occasionally, a louder burst, or the echo of one, would send the crowd surging back up the road. But there seemed little awareness of danger, even when a police pick-up broadcast a warning.

Birt 'caves in' over complaint on Anna Ford interview

Andrew Cull Media Correspondent

BBC INTERVIEWERS insisted last night that politicians would continue to face tough questioning in the run-up to the election after the BBC's director-general, John Birt, criticised the Today presenter, Anna Ford.

But the BBC denied that the letter was an apology and expressed disappointment that it had been leaked. The BBC, attacked as arrogant and biased by Labour last week-end, fears it is being made a political football in the heightened pre-election atmosphere.



was a question to which she regarded by Mr Birt as the mildest of rebukes, was agreed with Roger Mosey, Today's editor.

One BBC presenter said: "One regrets the BBC does not stand up for interviewees. It is difficult enough without being dumped on by the director-general."

Mr Clarke, known as a robust and uncompromising interviewer, was said to have regarded the row as hilarious. Brian Wilson, Labour's campaign spokesman, said: "For some time the BBC have openly complained about undue pressure from political parties. Now, faced with an attack from Brian Mawhinney, they have caved in."

Inside
Eugene de Kock told the supreme court in Pretoria he had evidence that a South African security agent killed Olof Palme.

News
Eugene de Kock told the supreme court in Pretoria he had evidence that a South African security agent killed Olof Palme.

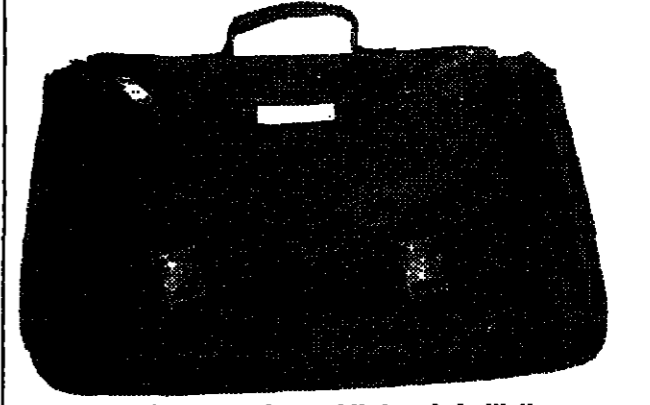
Britain
The EU has for the first time signalled its readiness to give Tony Blair more time to negotiate changes to the Maastricht treaty.

Finance
British Telecom moved towards a pan-European strategy with a £1.1 billion investment in a French venture.

Sport
The federation running athletics in South Africa stands accused of trying to rig races involving some of its top runners.

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Obituaries 10
Friday Review
Crossword 15; Weather 16
TV 16; Radio 16

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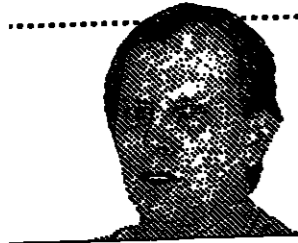
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2 NEWS

Sketch

A new view of the Auld Enemy



Peter Hetherington

In a bar somewhere around the conference fringes, someone this weekend will down another dram, survey the casualties slumped around the bar, draw deep breath, and hold forth about a nation exploited by a colonial neighbour. On hearing a southern accent, he might even volunteer: "No offence, pal — nothing personal, understand — but ye cannae trust the English. It has been the same since well, 1320 when a group of patriots signed the declaration of Arbroath and declared: "For as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we under any condition be brought under English rule." The old nation had another 400 years to go before it was absorbed by England to become, eventually, little more than an outpost of North Britain. But Arbroath, governed, as it happens, by a nationalist council for some time, is still a defining moment for some patriots locked into the past. History goes back a long way in the Scottish National Party, meeting this week for its annual conference in Inverness. Bitterness over a 1707 Act of Union, a sell-out by a nobility on the make, still lingers. Late at night, laced with a glass or 10 of the brown stuff, every problem, real or imagined, is laid at the door of the English or, to be fair, some anonymous English establishment. While much of the banter can be dismissed as good, clean fun — the mirror image of jock-baiting in the south — SNP leader Alex Salmond thinks the hackneyed "blame the English" jibes should be consigned to history. Salmond, a sober, sharp-suited economist, is out to portray the SNP as a mature political force above such petty, nationalist ranting. This week he revealed that, "unlike some people in Scotland", he had never assumed the worst

about the English. And he appeared sick and tired of these unnamed Scots blaming the Auld Enemy for almost everything. Stomping, he pleaded: "Everything that's wrong with Scotland is the responsibility of the Scots." What he made of a leaflet from the SNP's youth wing, based on Irvine Welsh's cut-throat, train-spotting, is not clear. It quotes one of Welsh's heroin addicts dismissing the English as wankers, and continues: "We can't even pick a decent culture to be colonised by." A Labour MP complained to the Commission for Racial Equality, claiming the leaflet was racist. The SNP countered by revealing that one of those behind it was English. But, of course, in a mature political party — with four MPs, two MEPs and almost 30 per cent support in the latest opinion poll — there are greater matters of statehood to address. Like how to run the economy after freedom (from England) is secured. Yesterday party spokesmen, and women, were graded before the media to explain why Scotland — rich in oil, water, whisky, wood and whingers (on Mr Salmond's admission) — could be self-sustaining. Already, they asserted, tax revenues meant it was a net contributor to the Exchequer. The day started badly on BBC Radio Scotland for John Swinney, a nervous SNP Treasury spokesman, and seemed to go rapidly downhill. "We're actually paying 10 per cent of UK revenue while we've got 8.8 per cent of the population," he maintained. "That's a consequence of the booming economy... north of the border," countered a robust interviewer. "You can't have it both ways." Soon afterwards, presenting a booklet on The Economic Case for Independence, Mr Swinney spoke of Scotland being the "21st richest nation in the world." Some bright spark asked where Britain, as a whole, stood. There was a pause before the reply: "Er... 19th". Based on this revelation, it is reliably reported that the combative Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, is rushing out another leaflet in defence of his cherished union with England: "Vote SNP to be poorer."



A light-hearted Gerry Adams at his book launch acknowledges a literary debt to P.G. Wodehouse

Smooth Adams steals agenda

Hostile press bemused as Sinn Fein leader pays tribute to Jeeves

Ewen MacAskill on a PR success

GERRY Adams allowed himself a little smile yesterday. He had been asked about literary influences. After listing a handful of Irish writers, from Liam O'Flaherty to Roddy Doyle, he threw in a surprise, the creator of the Jeeves and Bertie Wooster, epitomes of the English class system. A bemused journalist asked why one of the key figures in the Irish republican movement had chosen P.G. Wodehouse. Mr Adams said it was because he identified with the oppressed, even butlers. "I always treat butlers with absolute deference," he said. "I think they are long suffering." He did not add "like the

Irish people" but he did say "like representatives of Sinn Fein". Mr Adams is smooth, good at public relations, backed by a Sinn Fein machine that puts a lot of money and thought into presentation. Even the Unionist community acknowledges the extent to which Sinn Fein can dominate the news agenda. On the opening day of the multi-party talks in June, Mr Adams secured the pictures he wanted, to the distress of the Northern Ireland Office, showing him behind a wire-mesh gate, barred from the peace talks. A month later, he was pictured in the Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast, trapped behind two rows of Royal Ulster Constabulary armoured vehicles. And yesterday he did it again. He was in the Irish Centre in Camden, north London, for what should have been a relatively low-key event for the launch of his autobiography, Before the Dawn. Instead, he was happy to be at the centre of a semi-circle of more than 100 television cameramen, photographers and reporters, drawn by the IRA arms find earlier in the week and the Labour Party row over his invitation to the House of Commons. This ensured that he spent the day being chased by the media, from a private meeting with Labour MPs Jeremy Corbyn and Tony Benn through to a photo opportunity on the College Green outside Parliament. By the evening, he had done a series of interviews, including a radio phone-in. This morning, he is due to fly to Dublin, a successful trip behind him. At the press conference, apart from the odd soft question about literary influences — after all, it was a book launch — the tone of the journalists was hostile. "Had he in fact shot dead a British officer, as described in the book in a section he claimed was fictional?" Did he write the articles under the pseudonym Brownie expressing pride at being in the IRA? Was he pleased or sorry about this week's London arms find? Mr Adams has been dealing with hostile questions for years. He has learned not to become rattled, to provide an answer of some sort. No, he had not killed a British officer. Yes, he had written some of the Brownie articles but not that one. He could hardly answer otherwise, admitting to membership of the IRA carries a prison sentence. On the arms find, he said: "I am very pleased that only one person was killed." But he hadn't answered the question: was he pleased or sorry? He replied that as far as he was concerned he had answered the question. A handful of people at the back of the hall applauded at the end. One, 85-year-old Kathleen Gibbons, had travelled from Hampton just to see him and spend the press conference balancing on top of a wobbly chair. She had been impressed: there had been nothing "boastful, nothing bombastic" about him. But she was not disinterested: her dead husband, Danny, had been in an IRA flying column in County Mayo in the years immediately after the 1916 Rising. The journalists were less impressed, checking notes, realising they had yet again failed to pin him down.

Asked about the arms find, he replied: 'I am very pleased only one person was killed'

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Press buried under world wide junk

Avalanche of unsolicited e-mail clogs up computer systems

Stuart Millar

UNTIL yesterday, National Public Radio was a respected station struggling against the tide to insert serious debate into American talk radio. Now it is despised by media organisations across the western world. Staff at more than 100 newspapers and magazines, including the Guardian and the Daily Telegraph, entered work yesterday to find that the station was bombarding them with an e-mail detailing the running order of a Sunday programme. At first the stray mailer was amusing; after 95 copies had clogged up their computer systems, the organisations saw red. "You must be out of your

fucking mind to send me 95 identical copies of unsolicited mail about your programme that I never asked for," one e-mail reply fumed. "Stop this nonsense!" The debacle is the latest example of a growing problem in cyberspace — junk mail. As commercial companies attempt to cash in on the massive popularity of the Internet, a whole industry, known as spamming, has emerged compiling and selling lists of users' addresses. In this case, a company unconnected with NPR, Information Brokers, had compiled a list of 129 media organisations in the United States, Britain and Europe. But in a test that went horribly wrong, when the badly-constructed list was

sent to the station it activated an automatic reply set up for listeners' e-mail enquiries about the show. Ironically, it began: "Please forgive this form response, but because of the volume of mail we receive, we find it impossible to respond personally to every message..." For reasons unknown to NPR, this was then sent continuously to every name on the list. By the time the station's computer department was alerted, thousands of copies had already been sent into cyberspace. Yesterday, the station's bosses were struggling to regain the respect of the world's media. "I got as many of our e-mails as anyone, so I know exactly how it feels," said Robert Malesky, the senior producer whose name was at the bottom of the mailer. "I will be writing letters of apology to everyone inconvenienced and stressing this list had

nothing to do with NPR." He added: "I received a lot of very nasty calls on Wednesday so I was forced to take a very long lunch." "While paper letters can be discarded easily, regular Internet users are becoming accustomed to a few junk mailers everyday. Without knowing, they give away their e-mail address every time they read a World Wide Web page. But media organisations, unable to hide their addresses or filter out unwanted mail, are increasingly finding their systems creaking under the weight of unsolicited junk. "For people who publish their address, it is something they have to learn to cope with," said Bill Thompson, a computer journalist. "The NPR case shows the technology is so powerful it gives you the potential to humiliate yourself in public without even knowing."

First night

The day when it all went wrong

Lyn Gardner

Cash On Delivery Whitehall Theatre

MICHAEL Cooney proves he is a gold chip off the old block with his first stab at farce, directed with a nice eye for slapstick by his father, veteran farceur Ray. It was trimmed by 20 minutes and the initial dispersed with entirely. Cash On Delivery would be a classic evening in the English Whitehall tradition, a style that owes more to the saucy seaside postcard than to Feydeau. Even as it stands, with all its imperfections, it has a number of side-splitting moments and a brilliantly sustained 10-minute sequence before the interval that brings tears to the eyes. Of course, it is mildly reactionary in its attitudes towards gays, women and men who dress up in frocks, but no more so than the average television sitcom. What those who sneer at this kind of theatre too easily forget is that the form demands an extraordinarily high level of craft on the part of writer, director and actors, and that in its own way, it can say as much about human nature as King Lear. What is so good about Cooney's observation is the way he pins down a very particular lower-middle-class social milieu. The jests about outsize brassieres, support hosiery and corsets date from almost any period in the last 50 years, but the setting is very exact, the post-Thatcherite Nineties where the culture of success

and self-sufficiency has hit the brick wall of recession. You can all too easily believe in Eric Swan (Bradley Walsh, giving an excellent, highly athletic performance as a man whose world collapses about him), an upwardly mobile East Ender, who loses his white-collar job at the electricity board but is so afraid to tell his unsympathetic wife that he becomes embroiled in a series of imaginative social security scams, which unluckily for him all begin to unravel on one terrible day. Amid the mayhem that ensues after the arrival of a DSS inspector, the upstairs lodger, a psychiatrist, an undertaker, a woman from the council, the upstairs lodger's fiancée, Uncle George (Brian Murphy, particularly nice), a corpse and Swan's wife, what is exposed is not Eric's culpability but his frailty, and what is celebrated is not his moral dishonesty but his quick-witted inventiveness. It is a world where learning to duck and dive will stand you in good stead for a career as a barrow boy, a petty criminal, a trader in the City, or if necessary, all three. Cooney turns the classic portrait of the DSS scrounger on its head. Swan is not an indolent layabout, he wants to get on. He sweats over his claims for disabled lumbajacks, deaf piano tuners and their assorted dependants, from toddlers to bedridden grannies. The lesson, as suits these morally ambivalent times, is mixed: crime may not pay in the long run, but if you cannot beat the system you might at least be able to join it.

Vets demand BSE inquiry

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

THE Government's "incompetent handling of the BSE crisis, which has resulted in an unnecessary culling of healthy cattle and has reduced farming to its knees", should be the subject of a public inquiry, Bob Stevenson, the president of the British Veterinary Association, said last night.

Mr Stevenson's outspoken attack as leader of the country's normally uncomplaining 9,000 vets came on the opening day of the association's annual meeting in Chester. He said that an inquiry was required to find out what had gone wrong over BSE, who was responsible, and how such problems could be avoided in the future. He was also adamant that the killing and destruction of healthy animals was an appalling waste.

Police lied over Bhutto shooting

Phil Goodwin in Islamabad

A MEDICAL investigation into the police killing of Murtaza Bhutto, the brother of the Pakistani prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, has exposed lies in the police account of the shooting. The investigation concluded that the senior police officer at the scene in fact shot himself in the foot, although he claimed to have been shot by Murtaza's supporters. The injury had been cited by the officer as the reason why the police opened fire. They say they were shot at during a confrontation at a checkpoint in Karachi a week ago, and returned fire, killing Murtaza and six of his men. Murtaza's widow, Ghinwa, said the police had made up the story, and the provincial government in Sindh set up an investigation team. Its report says: "keeping in view the direction of the wound on the easily accessible, least dangerous and non-vital part of the body... the members of the board are of the unanimous opinion that the left foot injury... has been caused by a firearm at close range and is self-inflicted." This gives some support to

Benazir's initial theory that her brother was the target of a pre-planned killing. Yesterday, she widened her theory to accuse elements within the country of setting in motion an attempt to overthrow her. The last few days have seen a flurry of developments. On Friday her brother was shot dead. On Monday her former ally, President Farooq Leghari, chose — at the height of her mourning period — to criticise her government for what he said was its failure to tackle corruption. In his first attempt to assert his authority for three years, the president invoked a rarely-used article of the constitution to force parliament to consider changes to anti-corruption legislation. Yesterday, Mr Leghari met the main opposition leader, the former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, for the first time in three years and hinted that he was prepared to use his constitutional powers to dismiss the government if he thought it was in the national interest. Benazir told a crowd of mourners: "If they think I'm a woman and I'll just collapse crying they are wrong. I am a defender of the democratic system and I will fight." In a matter of days, Pakistan has moved from political stalemate into political crisis.

Arab-Israeli clashes kill 55

continued from page 1 trolley, and blood on the bodies both living and dead being unloaded and crammed into the plainly inadequate hospital. Opposite the casualty entrance was a sign in Arabic and English, listing the facilities: Physiotherapy, Maternity, Utility Store, Morgue. Back on the Jerusalem road there was a hull in the gunfire. Israel radio gave the battle a brief mention, but had other more dramatic news to recount: a siege of Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip, the death of Israeli soldiers in Nablus, and the early arrival

home of Mr Netanyahu. The gunfire started again: great grating volleys of it. Yet the one shot which stands out from yesterday's madness was fired not on the Jerusalem road, but on the settler bypass to the east. It came from a smart red Israeli-plated van which slowed in front of the Guardian car, and pulled in to the side. A long-barrelled gun appeared from the driver's window and a single shot was loosed off at a small Arab village 500 yards away. The war was some way off, but that single, cretinous shot was what it was all about.

Storm in the pot as chefs laud the 'old'

Lex Dover Smith splits the Guild of...

Tories

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FORAS A WATER-R

AFTER RECENT FLOPS CAN EDDIE MURPHY STILL STAND UP? In this week's Radio Times Eddie Murphy talks about his early success and his recent failures. And why he's scared about going back to stand up comedy. RadioTimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

مكتبة القرآن الكريم

Police lied over Bhutto shooting

Israeli clashes kill

Vive la différence

Traditional menu from Georges Blanc Three-star Michelin Chef	Innovative menu by Marc Veyrat Three-star Michelin Chef
Titre "La Brasserie en tête"	Titre Lunch menu
Timbale de cuisses de grenouilles au mariage d'épices et poudre d'aïk. (Frog's legs cooked in a timbale mould with spices and powdered garlic)	Tasse de saumon sous bois (consomme of woodland fungi)
Pot-au-feu aux trois volailles comme en Brasserie, bouillon corré à l'huile de truffes et légumes étuvés	Fêta à la benoîte Lake Geneva fish (the salmon family) with benoîte - a herb found in woodland near the restaurant with a flavour reminiscent of châtinaise mushrooms and ceps
Beurre de saut (Bresse-style poultry stew with a heavy broth of truffle oil and braised vegetables)	Végétarien: Cardon vapeur (steamed cardoon (edible thistle))
Crêpes Voltairiennes (Pancakes, Voltair-style)	Les six pots de crème brûlée (six plates of crème brûlée, each flavoured with an Alpine herb)
Votre choix parmi la composition des desserts du moment (Dessert trolley)	



On either side in the debate: Marc Veyrat (left), who favours fungi, and Georges Blanc, president of the guild



Red pepper and mango... produce that whets 'novelty' appetites but is apt to be frowned on by the traditionalists

PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER TOOTH

Storm in a stew pot as 'novelty' chefs lambast the 'old fogeys'

Alex Duval Smith on the row that has split the Guild of Haute Cuisine

IN THE worst row to spoil the broth since nouvelle cuisine left diners hungry in the 1980s, France's top traditional chefs have disowned a breed of "novelty cooks" who think nothing of serving up edible thistles followed by red pepper sorbet.

Yesterday, up to 20 of the country's youngest and most talented chefs resigned from the Guild of Haute Cuisine, claiming that the stalwarts of their professional body were old fogeys trying to stunt creativity.

The man accused by traditionalists of curdling the mayonnaise is Marc Veyrat, a 45-year-old chef whose restaurant in Annecy, in the Alps, has three Michelin stars. He controversially laces his dishes

with herbs and fungi from woodland near his restaurant.

In May, Mr Veyrat was publicly flamed by 13 traditionalist chefs who handed a petition to the French government denouncing "the tendency among some colleagues to mix anything with everything in the name of innovation".

The chefs, led by the president of the 80-member Guild of Haute Cuisine, Georges Blanc, aged 53, called for a pledge to use local produce and a return to "simplicity and harmony of flavours" so as to "safeguard France's identity".

This invective led Mr Veyrat and his supporters to accuse Mr Blanc — whose restaurant in Vonnas, central France, has

three stars since 1981 — of racism. False rumours even circulated, naming Mr Blanc as a member of the National Front.

Yesterday Mr Veyrat was unrepentant over his move to inspire some of France's most talented chefs to leave the guild, whose role is to lobby the government over quality standards and prices.

He said: "Cuisine is like architecture or any other art form. It draws its influences widely. Ten of my supporters have three stars — these are brave people for whom money is secondary to the profession progressing. To defend national identity is archaic."

Another chef who left the guild yesterday, Alain Serderys, said it was more important to defend the quality of ingredients than their origin.

"In ancient Gaul, there was not much to eat apart from chestnuts and acorns. The original cassoulet was made with broad beans. The haricot bean, an import, came much later. Where would the famous south-western stew be today without the haricot bean?"

Mr Blanc was yesterday refusing to comment on the walkout, stressing that his petition in May had not been drawn up in the name of the guild. He added that he had received formal letters of resignation from fewer than 10 of Mr Veyrat's 20 alleged supporters.

"This row is getting too personal; I have never said anything directly against

Palme 'killed' by SA agent

David Beresford in Johannesburg

THE self-confessed head of a police assassination squad, Colonel Eugene De Kock, told the supreme court in Pretoria yesterday he had evidence that South African security services were responsible for the murder of the Swedish prime minister, Olof Palme, in 1986.

De Kock — who has been convicted of six murders and a string of other crimes — was testifying in mitigation of sentence. He claimed the killing had been carried out with the help of a notorious South African agent, Craig Williamson.

"It was one of Craig Williamson's Operation Long Reach projects. I wanted it to be investigated before it was covered up," he said.

Elsewhere in his evidence, testifying about the abuse of state funds by the security services, he said a British agent was once paid about £100,000 after threatening to expose South African police involvement in a bomb attack on the London offices of the African National Congress.

There has been speculation in the past about South African involvement in the murder of Palme, who was shot dead while walking home with his wife from a cinema in central Stockholm.

Lars Jonsson, the deputy chief of the Swedish police panel investigating the murder, said yesterday: "A part of the De Kock information is new. I do not want to say what is new to us and what is not."

A petty criminal, Christer Pettersson, was tried for the murder in 1988, but acquitted.

Mr Williamson was one of South Africa's most successful spies until his cover was blown by the Guardian in 1980, when he held a key position as deputy director of an anti-apartheid funding agency in Geneva.

Mr Williamson returned to South Africa and became a senior officer in the security services. He is known to have masterminded the bombing of the ANC's London offices in 1982, for which he and members of the sabotage team — including one Peter Casleton — were decorated by the South African government.

In 1989 a Swedish man, Bert Wedin, was charged with burgling the London offices of the second South African liberation movement, the Pan-Africanist Congress. He said he had been recruited by Mr Casleton and his "handler" was Mr Williamson.

South African security forces are known to have sent murder units to Europe in the 1980s to kill anti-apartheid figures. One victim, Dulcie September, the ANC's chief representative in France, was shot dead in Paris in 1988.

Palme strongly opposed the apartheid regime and Sweden made substantial contributions to the ANC.

Tories target 'neglected' blue collar voters

Party appeals to trade unionists 'dropped' by moderniser Blair

Party warns rank and file trade unionists that "For New Labour You Are the Danger" — even though Mr Blair still accepts money in return for influence for union bosses.

The advertising pitch emerged yesterday as Cabinet ministers were told to submit conference speeches for vetting to prevent more damaging splits over Europe and gas, such as Michael Portillo's SAS speech last year.

Behind the trade union appeal is a decision by John Major's election strategists to try to outflank Tony Blair by

using this month's party conference in Bournemouth to emphasise "opportunity for all" in a classless society.

It is an explicit dig at what is seen as the Labour leadership's obsession with the middle class in which, private Tory polling claims to detect, Labour's traditional base is feeling neglected.

"Working men and women are welcome in the Conservative Party. We will not claim to put your interests above all others. But we pledge not to put any interests above yours," says the advert, published on page 9.

Plans are also afoot to revive the Conservatives' Trade Unionists organisation. Despite renewed party in-

fighting, Mr Major still believes he can win the election next spring — although this week's MORI poll for the Times puts his party on 29 per cent against Labour's 62 and 14 per cent for the Liberal Democrats.

The tighter discipline announced at yesterday's Cabinet session, came after Mr Major told his team to use its week in Bournemouth to set out practical and realistic policies for the election — what the Prime Minister called "the action thing, not the vision thing".

Mr Major even urged colleagues not to bash Labour too hard in Bournemouth. He wants them to come across as an experienced and seasoned team in contrast both with Labour's relative youth.

After a week which saw a fresh slip over the European single currency — and

calls for Kenneth Clarke's dismissal from the Treasury — yesterday brought renewed speculation that Mr Major may choose to manoeuvre his government into a snap election in November rather than face a harrowing winter.

The tighter discipline announced at yesterday's Cabinet session, came after Mr Major's replacement by a cut-and-run chancellor, was widely dismissed last night. "The election will be on May 1," senior party sources stressed.

But ministers may have to buy off discontented Ulster Unionist MPs before a likely vote on the BSE crisis — unless the Labour left's embrace of Gerry Adams has concentrated Unionist minds. They also face the prospect of another awkward by-election, since one Tory backbencher is seriously ill.

Yesterday's Cabinet session saw the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, call for "co-ordination and discipline", echoes of a plea Tony Blair made to his own team 24 hours earlier. Ministers will be expected to submit speeches they make on the conference fringe as well as in the hall for inspection, he said with Mr Major's backing.

This reflects the Euro-row which sceptics intend to push hard on the fringe in the hope of breaching the Cabinet's opt-out compromise.

It also rectifies a desultory performance last year which saw key speeches delivered without being checked for policy consistency. Above all Mr Portillo's first speech as Defence Secretary was only seen in early draft.

It left the Mr Major to sit through a shrill "Who dares wins" speech.

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Paula Yates 'surprised' after drug squad raid on her home

Vivek Chaudhary

THE television star Paula Yates and her lover, Michael Hutchence, were said yesterday to be in "complete surprise" following a drug squad raid on their London home, in which controlled substances were seized.

Ms Yates, aged 34, former wife of the singer Bob Geldof, and INXS singer Hutchence are currently in Australia with their two-month-old daughter, Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lilly.

Mark Stephens, the couple's lawyer, said: "The news has come as a complete surprise to them both."

"Paula and Michael have received no contact of any kind from the police and they wish to make no further comment."

Officers from the drugs

squad raided the couple's £50,000 home in Chelsea, west London, finding a number of controlled substances.

A police spokesman said that officers obtained a warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act and that the raid followed information they had received.

He refused to confirm reports that the substance found was opium, adding only: "The substances found in the house will now be analysed and our inquiries are continuing."

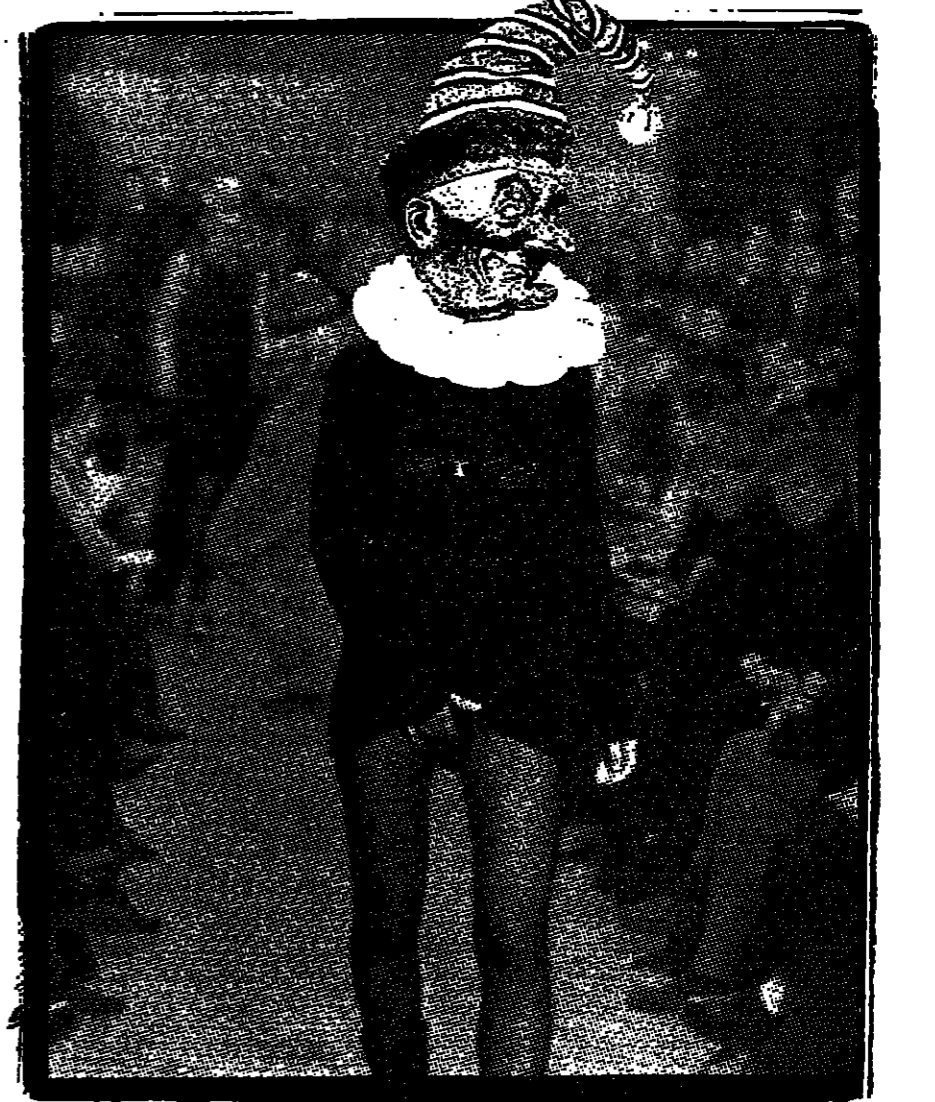
The couple's nanny, Anita Debney, was questioned by police following the raid.

She said yesterday: "I was interviewed by police but I haven't heard yet if they want to speak to me again."

She added that she had telephoned Ms Yates and her boyfriend to tell them about the raid.

What is the most innocent and beautiful woman on the catwalk doing with the seediest, low-down renegade in American cinema?
Claudia Schiffer's new career

Friday Review page 8



PUNCH, EVERY FRIDAY. THE MAGAZINE THAT DOESN'T GET INVITED BACK.

IN PUNCH THIS WEEK THE PECULIAR MANAGEMENT STYLE OF BRITAIN'S MOST POWERFUL PRESS BARON IS REVEALED. SOMEBODY OTHER THAN PRINCE CHARLES LOBBIES MODERN ARCHITECTURE. AND WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE MP EXPLAINS WHY HE'S HAD TO GIVE UP BEING MORE'S ALTHOUGH. PUNCH AT YOUR SERVICE! EVERY FRIDAY. OR CALL FREE ON 0800 892 239 FOR DETAILS OF THE 50th BIRTHDAY OFFER. GU42709

AFTER RECENT FLOPS CAN EDDIE MURPHY STILL STAND UP?

RadioTimes

4 BRITAIN

News in brief

'Design flaw caused girl's death' on slide

A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl died after being trapped as a result of a design flaw on a garden slide bought from the Early Learning Centre, an inquest was told yesterday. The hearing was held as Newcastle council prepares to prosecute the shop's parent company, John Menzies UK.

The inquest, which recorded a verdict of accidental death, heard that Amy Grierson's head became jammed in the gap between the slide's chute and the support strut connecting it to the ladder as she played outside her home in Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne, in April. Her mother, Kirsty Docking, aged 24, discovered Amy but she died six days later in hospital from brain damage caused by lack of oxygen.

Ibrar Shekh, the Early Learning Centre's technical manager, said checks found a record of previous serious accidents involving the slide. However, it was withdrawn from sale after Amy's death and the firm later developed a modification kit to cover the gap. It issued 30,000 free to families and the kits are still available in its shops.

Tarrant in £3m radio deal

CHRIS Tarrant has confirmed his position as one of Britain's highest paid broadcasters with a new three-year contract with Capital Radio estimated at £3 million. The deal puts him ahead of Chris Evans, the presenter of Radio 1's breakfast show, in the pay stakes. Evans's company, Ginger, is understood to receive about £1 million a year from the BBC but he has to use some of the money to pay his staff and production costs.

Tarrant said: "I couldn't miss the opportunity of continuing to talk to London on Capital FM. It's the most fun job in the world."

The 48-year-old broadcaster is host of LWT's "Tarrant on TV" show, for which he is reputed to earn an extra £200,000. He has been presenting his early morning show on Capital for 11 years. — *Andrew Culf*

Nazis 'infiltrated Red Cross'

THE International Red Cross is investigating claims in declassified US intelligence documents that the agency was penetrated by Nazi agents during the second world war. A document, dated April 1946 — a copy of which has been seen by the Guardian — refers to "employees of the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] who reportedly have used their position to carry enemy funds and enemy-owned jewels across the Swiss frontier". Another states that "information from many sources points to the conclusion that the International Red Cross is being used as a cover for German agents".

The documents, some of which identify individuals, were unearthed by the World Jewish Congress and have been passed to the Jewish Chronicle. The Geneva-based ICRC acknowledges that a number of employees who temporarily worked for the agency might have been involved in espionage. — *Richard Norton-Taylor*

Ill inmates to lose shackles

INMATES have been left chained to hospital beds as a matter of routine policy when they are treated by the NHS, the Prison Service has confirmed. New instructions are to be issued shortly to prison governors banning the practice but only after the Prison Service's head of security, William Abbott, had to issue an apology to one inmate "for the humiliation" he suffered.

The change of policy comes as the new Chief Inspector of Prisons, Sir David Ramsbottom, launched a public call for the Prison Service to appoint a director of young offenders to ensure that the neglected needs of teenage inmates are met.

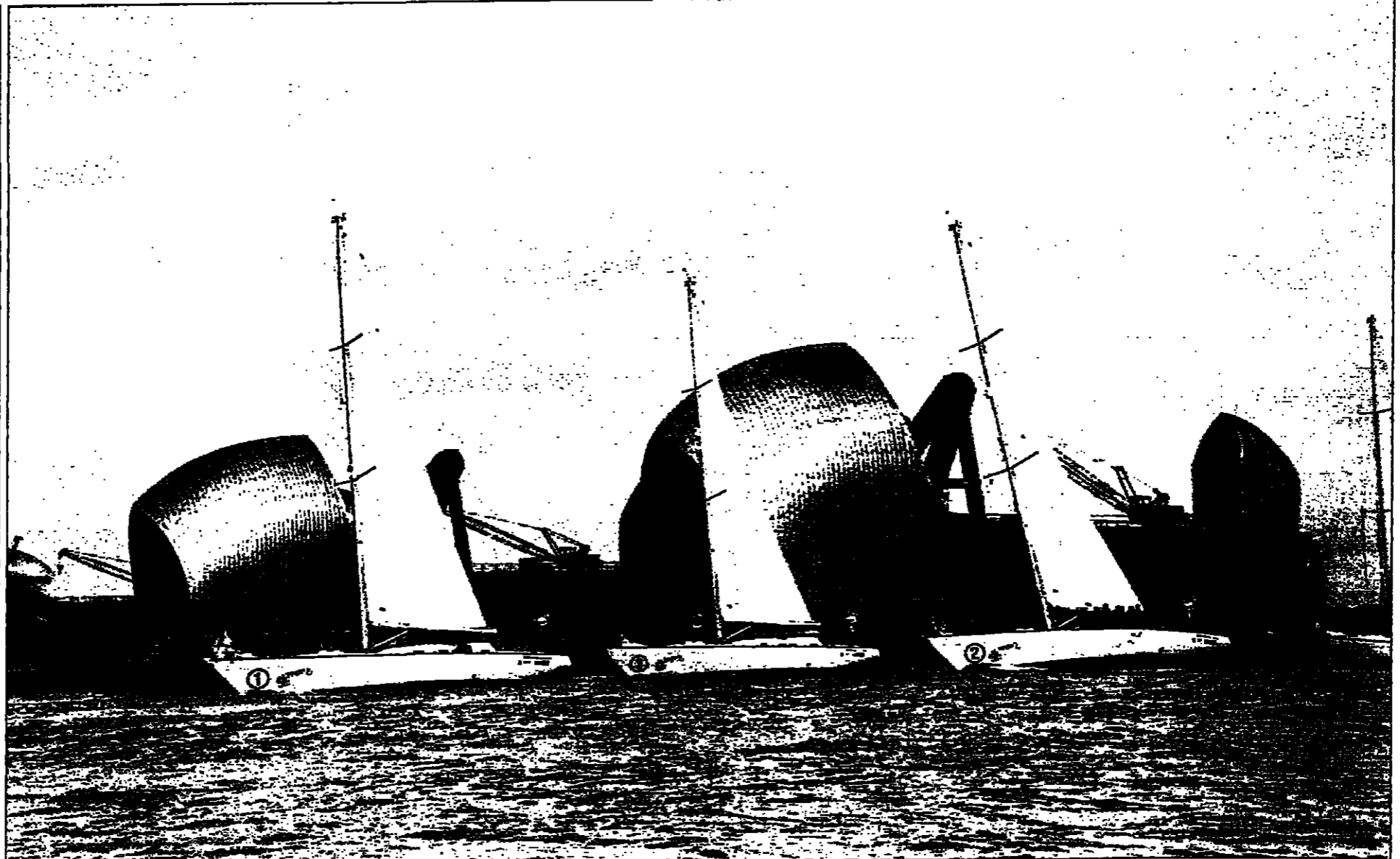
The decision to change policy on shackling inmates while they are in hospital follows a row earlier this year about the chaining of pregnant women prisoners in the hours before they give birth and an incident in which a woman prisoner had to attend her child's funeral in chains. — *Alan Travis*

'Slaves friend' honoured

THOMAS Clarkson, whose 48 years of struggle helped to end slavery in much of the world, was belatedly honoured at Westminster Abbey last night. A green slate stone commemorating the Victorian "friend of slaves" was dedicated in the abbey's north choir aisle close to the grave of his partner in the campaign, William Wilberforce. Wilberforce — who received most credit for the campaign — has been buried there for 183 years. Descendants of both Clarkson and Wilberforce lobbied for the honour and were in the congregation, alongside modern anti-slavery campaigners. — *John Ezard*

Clarification

IT IS regretted if any connection was made between the findings of a youth survey published on Monday, September 23, and the accompanying photograph of a group of young people. We wish to point out that the photograph of the group was taken at a roller-blading event in Bromley, south London.



Identical 60ft clipper yachts passing the Thames barrier yesterday en route for two days' public viewing in St Katherine's dock, central London. With crews aged 17 to 70, eight of the boats will compete in a round the world race organised by circumnavigator Sir Robin Knox-Johnston starting from Plymouth Sound on October 12

Inquiry as child sex offender recaptured

Sarah Boseley

A DANGEROUS paedophile who spent 30 hours on the run after escaping from a psychiatric hospital was re-arrested yesterday, but a second child sex offender was still on the loose last night.

Dozens of police officers were deployed to patrol schools after the escape of John Mayes, aged 45, who was described as very violent and a particular danger to children. The public were warned not to approach him.



John Mayes: Picked up by police at M6 junction

Mayes was convicted of a serious sexual assault on a seven-year-old boy in 1984. He had three previous convictions for sexual attacks on children.

An investigation is under way into the disappearance of the paedophile, who ran off as he was being escorted through the grounds of St Margaret's psychiatric hospital in Great Barr, Birmingham, to his locked ward. Mayes, who has an IQ of 70, had been placed by a court in the hospital, which deals pri-

marily with learning disabilities. He was receiving psychotherapy and behavioural treatment. The hospital is reviewing whether one psychiatric nurse was adequate to escort such a patient.

Mayes was picked up on the Cannon roundabout at junction 11 of the M6 in the West Midlands yesterday afternoon by motorway traffic police.

Wayne Cooper, acting chief executive of Walsall Health Trust with responsibility for St Margaret's, said it was up to clinicians to decide whether they would apply to the Home Office for Mayes to be transferred to a more secure hospital.

Sieve Daggett, aged 38, a low risk category inmate of Ashworth special hospital in Maghull, Merseyside, also absconded on Wednesday. He phoned the hospital that evening to say his disappearance was a protest, but a spokeswoman said yesterday: "We don't know over what."

Daggett gave his escort the slip while on a shopping trip in the centre of Liverpool as part of a rehabilitation programme. As a result of his disappearance — and that of another Ashworth patient recently on an outing to Blackpool — all such trips have been cancelled until the hospital completes an inquiry.

Staff at the hospital appeared to be shocked by the escape of Daggett, who has three convictions for indecently assaulting young girls in Cumbria in 1984, to return.

EU ministers take cautious line on co-ordinating action against international paedophile rings

Stephen Bates in Dublin

EUROPEAN justice ministers agreed cautious first steps to counteract international paedophile rings at a meeting in Dublin yesterday, but shied away from calls to co-ordinate criminal codes and sentencing of offenders.

The moves are likely to fall far short of the co-ordinated action demanded by MEPs, national politicians and pressure groups in the wake of revelations about sex rings in Belgium and other countries and mounting concern about the fate of missing children.

As ministers put a brave face on their lowest common denominator moves by claiming they were acting more quickly than ever before to set up public concerns, some member states made clear there was no chance of the co-ordinated action that has

been demanded. Timothy Kirkhope, junior Home Office minister, said: "The problem of harmonisation is that we have a very tough stance and I don't think a lot of other countries do."

Britain was not alone in its opposition. Winnie Sordrager, the Dutch justice minister, said Holland would not harmonise its more liberal legal system, particularly in regard to drugs, the other issue on which there is pressure for co-ordinated action. She said: "Everybody has their own system of justice. We can agree that sexual exploitation of children and the making of pornographic videos should be punishable but not on the sort of punishment."

At present the definition of sexual abuse crimes varies widely across the European Union. In Italy sexual abuse of children which does not in-

volve violence is not a crime. The attempt to harmonise legislation was led by Belgium after the discovery of a child abduction ring in the southern city of Charleroi, but other EU states made clear that they see no prospect of judges being expected to levy similar sentences on offenders.

After the meeting Stefan de Clerck, Belgium's justice minister, said he would not give up pressing for harmonisation. "Perhaps the Belgian proposal was too detailed to get through," he said.

Ministers settled for proclaiming major advances in exchanging information and expertise in tackling paedophile rings, and an extension of the European drugs unit's remit to cover trafficking in humans. The drugs unit is expected to be absorbed in Europe, the EU's planned international police intelligence gathering unit.

Even plans for international registers of convicted paedophiles and missing children are foundering on questions of rights to privacy and access to information.

Judge orders psychiatric reports on woman who killed her baby and assaulted two others

Geoffrey Gibbs

A YOUNG mother who suffocated her eight-week-old baby daughter and assaulted two other infants by stopping them breathing was remanded in custody for psychiatric reports yesterday after being convicted of manslaughter.

Nichola Jordan, aged 20, from Chard, Somerset, was cleared at Exeter crown court of murdering her baby, Polly, but found guilty of manslaughter by an 11-1 majority.

The jury also convicted her by a majority verdict of inflicting grievous bodily harm on a 10-month-old boy. She was cleared of causing the boy grievous bodily harm with intent to endanger his life. Jordan had earlier been found guilty by a unanimous verdict of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to an 11-day-old girl.

The prosecution said Jordan intended to take the babies to the brink of death so she or someone else could revive them. It was suggested she had been seeking attention or sympathy for herself, and wanted to be seen as a heroine for resuscitating the babies.

Mr Justice Potts told Jordan she had been convicted on clear evidence of the offences against the children.

After representations from her defence counsel, Nigel Pascoe QC, he said he agreed it was necessary to have full reports on her condition at the time of the offences and her likely condition in the future before sentence could be passed. He warned her this did not mean she would not be going to prison.

It was police investigations into the attack on the 11-day-old girl that led to Jordan being accused of the murder of her own daughter eight months earlier in January 1994, and of the assault on the 10-month-old boy in 1990, when she was only 14.

Paul Dunkels QC, prosecuting, told the court Jordan had not intended to kill her daughter, but things went wrong and the baby's life could not be saved.

"We cannot say for certain but we suggest she was seeking attention or sympathy for herself and perhaps intended to be seen as a heroine," Mr Dunkels said.

The court heard that the first incident occurred while Jordan was on a work experience placement from her school in Chard. She was asked by the mother of the 10-month-old boy to change his nappy.

The mother heard screaming which then stopped. She met Jordan coming down stairs holding the baby which was blue. The mother said she held him upside down and slapped his back hard several

times before he began to breathe.

Eight months after the death of her own baby, which a pathologist had concluded was a cot death, Jordan was asked by a friend to babysit.

The court was told that shortly after they left Jordan called for an ambulance and rang to tell the parents the baby had stopped breathing. Jordan resuscitated her.

Jordan told police: "There is no way I would ever harm anyone else's baby, because I know what it is like to lose a baby."

Police did not use West home as brothel and drinking club

Kamal Ahmed

ALLEGATIONS that police used the home of Fred and Rosemary West as a brothel and drinking club have been dismissed by the Police Complaints Authority after a seven-month investigation.

The authority said that it could find no evidence to support the claims by Sharon Compton, a friend of Alison Chambers, one of the West's murder victims.

Mrs Compton, who is in her 30s, said police were regular visitors to the West's Cromwell Street home in the 1970s when the Wests' victims were being buried in the cellar. She claimed police would often drink at a bar set up in the

house and would go to Rosemary West's bedroom for sex.

On one occasion Mrs Compton claimed that she was tied to a chair and, after a "really horrendous torture session", was released by a man wearing a police uniform under a raincoat. Her complaint was passed to the authority by Gloucestershire police after allegations that there had been a failure to properly investigate her allegations. But in its report the PCA said that there was no evidence of such a failure.

The Gloucestershire deputy chief constable, Nigel Burgess, said: "While their conclusions do not come as a surprise I am obviously pleased with the clean bill of health being given to the force."

EU ready to allow Blair extra time to negotiate Maastricht

John Palmer in Brussels

THE European Union has agreed for the first time to signalled its readiness to give Tony Blair and a new Labour government more time to negotiate changes to the Maastricht treaty by delaying an agreement until the end of next year.

The Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, who had hoped to sign a new treaty next summer during the Dutch presidency of the European Union, has now said that it may have to be delayed until the winter of 1997.

Speaking after a co-ordination meeting with the Luxembourg government, Mr Kok said: "The British election campaign creates too many uncertainties about holding the conference [next summer]."

Until recently EU governments still privately expressed the hope that the British election might come this autumn. That would have left enough time for what they confidently expect will be an incoming Labour government to conclude the Maastricht treaty review conference by original deadline of next June.

"All the signs are that Mr Major will hold on to office as late as next April or May," a senior Dutch diplomat said last night. "That would give Tony Blair just a few weeks to reach a detailed agreement with the rest of us on a new treaty. That is a little unreasonable."

EU governments fear that any delay in signing the new treaty could postpone the planned start of negotiations to enlarge the European Union. But they still hope that a Labour government, especially one that may have the broad backing of the Liberal Democrats, will accept

the need for greater majority voting, some reduction in the national veto, more powers for the European Parliament and other reforms resisted by John Major's government.

Meanwhile 14 Labour pro-European MPs, yesterday launched a pamphlet spelling out the advantages of a single currency. The MPs, led by Giles Radice, plan to distribute their document at next week's party conference in Blackpool.

Their initiative comes as a riposte to the 50 Labour Eurosceptics who launched a campaign earlier this year against a single currency.

Police did not use West home as brothel and drinking club

Kamal Ahmed

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Discovery of mutant gene offers hope for HIV drug

Tina Radford

AMERICAN scientists believe they have discovered the genetic factors that might confer resistance to the HIV virus.

A team led by Stephen O'Brien of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda,

Maryland, report today that they have found a gene mutation that seems to explain why some people at high risk from the virus do not get infected, and also why other people who do become infected live for many years without developing Aids.

The news — published in the US journal Science — comes as UN officials calcu-

late that 31 million people in the world are HIV positive, and that more than 8,000 infections are contracted each day. HIV is a retrovirus; it cannot replicate unless it can smuggle itself into an immune system cell and hijack the victim's DNA to do its work for it. Once it can replicate, the virus mutates, making it ultimately invulnerable

to treatment. Researchers this summer found that the virus smuggles itself into the cell through a chemokine receptor called variously CCR5 or CXCR5.

But now researchers have studied a group of 1,900 volunteers at high risk of infection — haemophiliacs, sexually active gay men, and intravenous drug users — and found

a mutation in the gene for CCR5 in some of them. Everyone inherits two copies of a gene, one from each parent. People with two mutant copies of the gene were, they report today, highly resistant to HIV infection. And people with one mutant copy progressed towards Aids more slowly than those without either mutation.

It is not certain yet what the CCR5 receptor does, so a drug aimed at it might have unpredictable side effects. But researchers last night were hopeful. Alan Stone, who heads the British Medical Research Council's Aids secretariat, said: "I think this really has opened up a whole new area for treatment and prevention research."

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Brought to books: PM sees time for sequel to wife's home truths

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Brought to book: Tory

PM sees time for sequel to wife's home truths

Nick Varley

IF MICHAEL Foot's 1993 Labour manifesto was the longest suicide note in history, Norma Major last night launched what might become the longest farewell.



Norma Major poised to sign copies of her book yesterday. Her publishers predict Chequers will be a bestseller

At 267 pages, her history of the prime minister's official residence, Chequers, is described as "the definitive guide to one of Britain's least known and most interesting national treasures".

By next year it might be a memento of her time at the house, although she told the guests at the book's launching party at Sotheby's she had no plans to move out.

To loud cheers from the gathered Tory faithful, including Lord Archer, she said: "We've enjoyed enormously using Chequers. We hope to go on using it for a considerable time to come."

Brought to book: Labour

Leftwing veteran detects echoes of Sir Oswald

Michael White Political Editor

TONY Blair yesterday opened his heart as a country-loving family man whose ambitions had been spurred by the sudden and early death of his mother.



Tony Blair as pictured in the pages of Country Life, to which he revealed a preference for the bucolic lifestyle

Asked why he had aired his theories in yesterday's Daily Mail — whose pre-war enthusiasm for fascism is not a matter of mere speculation — Mr Blair, now 39, said he used it for the same reason his leader does: to reach a wider audience than Tribune.

The volume is awash with jargon such as 'defective handling of aggressivity'

It is a far cry from Mr Blair's own interview with Country Life magazine which reveals he would much prefer to live in the countryside — as he did for part of his childhood — if his day job permitted.

Major and Heseltine ready to testify in Guardian libel trial

Owen Bowcott

JOHN Major, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the former Conservative chief whip, Richard Ryder, are prepared to appear in the "cash for questions" libel action to answer any "relevant" questions.

brought against the Guardian by Neil Hamilton, former trade and industry minister, and the political lobbyist Ian Greer.

Mr Justice Bell: "The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Mr Ryder, the former chief whip, are concerned to assist and co-operate with this court in arriving at a fair resolution of the issues."

action from the witness box." If Mr Major is called, he will be the first prime minister to give evidence in court.

Tory politicians are silenced in confrontations with Ford

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

WHEN Anna Ford upbraided the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, for refusing to elevate the debate, the line to the Today programme's radio car went dead.

three months on the air. Last week's tetchy on-air interview with Mr Clarke was described by broadcasting colleagues as "completely out of character".

Some questioned whether Ms Ford, who presents up to 40 editions of Today each year, had the political savvy to cope with heavyweight interviews.

Ms Ford, who is well-known for her liberal views and feminist campaigning, faced one big hurdle throughout her broadcasting career — how to be taken seriously while the commentators and critics concentrate on her classically fragrant good looks.

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recapture

for HIV drug

Warnings about armed cadres return to haunt Jerusalem • Washington scrambles to keep lid on as election nears

Israelis stunned as



A Palestinian policeman fires his AK-47 rifle at Israeli troops stationed on the hills surrounding the West Bank town of Ramallah. PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM HOLLANDER

Palestinian police/ Despised by their people, the ex-guerrillas can now redeem themselves, writes Shyam Bhatia in Jerusalem

WHEN Israel's previous Labour government agreed to the return of thousands of Palestinian guerrillas from Lebanon and other Arab countries, it hoped that they would play an important role in maintaining order and security in Palestinian controlled cities.

Israel's late prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, ignored warnings from critics of the Oslo accord who claimed the Palestinian policemen would one day turn their guns on Jews.

The Oslo accord allows Yasser Arafat's self-rule Palestine National Authority to maintain about 18,000 armed policemen, but there are now more than 35,000 armed members of at least eight different security organisations.

For many of these Palestinian policemen, this is not the first time they have faced

Israeli soldiers. Most are fed-up, freedom fighters, or veterans of the guerrilla war waged from inside Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and only a few have formal police training.

Another several thousand Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip were recruited to serve in the various security forces after the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. They, too, lack formal police training and most have served time in Israeli prisons.

Their military ranks accord to the time spent in Israel's prisons, or in battles against the Israeli army. The head of one of the security organisations, Jibril Rajoub, spent 17 years in different Israeli jails. Upon his release, he was instantly decorated and awarded the rank of colonel. Today he heads one of Mr Arafat's most important security organisations, the

Palestinian Preventive Security Apparatus.

Other "generals" acquired their positions thanks to their loyalty to their president, Mr Arafat. Rank is also equated with protection, and may be bestowed on those fortunate enough to have friends or relatives in important positions.

The majority of Mr Arafat's policemen left their families behind in Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Algeria, Tunisia and Sudan. Even if Israel allows their families to join them, the policemen will have difficulty in supporting their wives and children.

Their average salary is £200 per month, and months sometimes pass before wages arrive. This has encouraged widespread corruption — the most humble of those in the highest ranks.

Many policemen are involved in blackmail, extortion, theft, bribery and armed robbery. Last week, one of Mr

Arafat's generals in the West Bank city of Ramallah was suspended after it turned out that he had struck a deal with Israeli businessmen to open a casino in Jericho.

Another top officer in Gaza is accused of raping a 17-year-old girl and, according to Israeli police, most of Mr Arafat's lieutenants drive cars stolen from Israel.

Hatred also divides the eight security organisations. The heads of agencies consider each other enemies and are involved in continuous intrigues against their perceived rivals. Palestinian analysts say that Mr Arafat — well known as a practitioner of divide and rule — encourages such rivalries.

Until last week, Mr Arafat's police were universally detested by Palestinians, who saw them as surrogates of the Israeli army. At least 10 Palestinians have died in the past two years as a result of torture in prison. Two months ago, Palestinians took to the streets and threw stones at police in West Bank cities. In one case, a mob attacked and

set fire to police headquarters in Tulkarm.

Now the police have an opportunity to change their image and prove they are not oppressors — but defenders.

Yesterday, Mr Arafat ordered his policemen to cease fire. He said the use of arms was legitimate only in cases of self defence. But several hours after his announcement, Palestinian snipers continued to fire from rooftops and hilltops at Israeli soldiers in many West Bank and Gaza locations.

Mr Arafat's office said the ceasefire decision was taken after an appeal from Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and President Ross Perot.

It now remains to be seen if Mr Arafat can still exert enough authority to rein in his security forces. If he succeeds, he will once again have proved to Israel and the rest of the world that he is the only figure they can address to solve the Palestinian problem.

Leader comment, page 8; Martin Woolcott, page 9

Nervous White House appeals for calm

US diplomacy/ Clinton aides are now scrabbling to salvage workable scraps from the Middle Eastern peace process as it unravels before their eyes, reports Martin Walker in Washington

THE Clinton administration was yesterday putting the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships under strong pressure to declare a truce, in order to preserve some workable remnant of the Middle East peace process.

With almost all of President Bill Clinton's foreign policy and "peacemaker" initiatives in serious trouble — from Northern Ireland to Haiti — the White House is scrambling for calm in the West Bank to keep foreign dissenters out of the public mind in the five weeks remaining before the United States presidential elections.

"I urged Mr [Binyamin] Netanyahu to close the new tunnel near the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, which has outraged the Palestinians. Meanwhile, it has tried to restrain its Arab allies from over-reacting to the crisis."

"We have been in constant touch with officials on both sides, and saying that each side should avoid creating new issues that can inflame the situation," Nicholas

The US also urged Mr Netanyahu to close the new tunnel near the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, which has outraged the Palestinians. Meanwhile, it has tried to restrain its Arab allies from over-reacting to the crisis.

"We have been in constant touch with officials on both sides, and saying that each side should avoid creating new issues that can inflame the situation," Nicholas

sign policy embarrassments is giving Bob Dole, the US Republican presidential challenger, the opportunity to return to his campaign charge that "Bill Clinton's policies of indecision, weakness and vacillation are making the world a more dangerous place".

The US position in the Middle East had been undermined already by the virtual end of talks between Israel

fragility of the US-backed peace process.

In Haiti, Mr Clinton's boldness in sending US troops to overthrow the military junta and restore democratic rule has run into serious trouble. Last week, US treasury and state department agents were discreetly sent to Haiti to take over responsibility for the safety of President Rene Preval after fears that his own security staff had become unreliable.

Congress has its eye on the unstable situation in Haiti. Yesterday, Mr Clinton was forced to cite national security and executive privilege to withhold documents it had subpoenaed. Congress was demanding to know how much the White House knew about the alleged murders of Haitian opposition leaders by security agents of the US-backed government.

In Bosnia, the US-backed peace agreement is faltering after election results which seemed to conceal ethnic differences. Massive fraud has thrown the results in doubt, and there is deep uncertainty within Nato about the future of the peacekeeping force.

And in Russia, President Clinton's unflinching support for Boris Yeltsin now looks to have underscored the

The president hopes to salvage a deal for which he had taken personal credit

Burns, the state department spokesman, said yesterday, in a clear reference to the controversial new tunnel.

"Israel and the Palestinian authority have agreed that Jerusalem issues are final-status issues and should be discussed between them in a calm and peaceful setting," Mr Burns added.

However, Washington's ability to rein in Mr Netanyahu's Likud-led government may be limited by recollections in Israel of Mr Clinton's preference for the Labour camp in the abortive Shimon Peres, during the last Israeli elections.

The sudden eruption of for-

and Syria since Mr Netanyahu's election — despite Mr Christopher's 27 dutiful trips to Damascus. It has been further weakened by the strains in the Gulf war alliance which followed its renewed cruise missile attacks on Iraq earlier this month.

The short-lived ceasefire in Northern Ireland was one of the high points of Clinton diplomacy, promising a solid reward in Irish-American votes. But the latest arms finds in Britain and the shooting by police of an apparently unarmed man have underscored the

King Hussein pleads for 'the impossible'

Arab reaction/ Call to halt bloodshed contrasts with talk of a new intifada

KING Hussein of Jordan pleaded yesterday for "the impossible" to be done to halt the bloodshed between Palestinians and Israelis.

After the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, the king is the Arab leader under most pressure from grassroots Palestinians angry at his involvement in a Middle East peace process which has yet to deliver peace or economic benefits.

"We have to do the impossible to calm matters to stop them from worsening," Jordan's news agency Petra quoted him as saying.

Earlier, he said Israel must be stopped from continuing work on the controversial tunnel in Jerusalem, and that an international committee should be formed "to discuss what happened and how it happened".

"This committee should consist of representatives of all international organisations," he said.

"Israel must be stopped from going ahead with the tunnel. Jerusalem must be a symbol of peace.

"I believe there is still hope for peace. Everyone has suffered so much. It will be a disaster for all of us if we move away from the peace process."

Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel recognised Jordan's "special role" in Muslim holy shrines in Arab Jerusalem.

In Cairo, a meeting of Arab League representatives warned Israel yesterday that the clashes could create "a whirlpool of violence, instability and bloodshed".

But the 22-member league took no steps other than to demand that Israel stick to peace agreements and start negotiations to determine the final status of Jerusalem.

"We call on Israel to lift its siege on Jerusalem and on all Palestinian land," the league said in a statement after a two-hour emergency meeting called by Mr Arafat.

It described the past two days of clashes as a new "intifada".

The Palestinian ambassador to the league, Mohammed Sobeh, warned that the bloodshed would end any semblance of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

"We are now confronted with a state of war with Israel," he said. "The Arab nation is committed to the strategic decision of peace but not at the price of Arab rights."

Mr Sobeh added: "The Palestinian land has turned into a battlefield. We need a united and effective effort in these hours."

Egypt's official Al-Ahram newspaper said Israeli intifadism was creating "a volcano which could erupt at any moment", adding that "Israel will probably be the biggest — and only — loser".

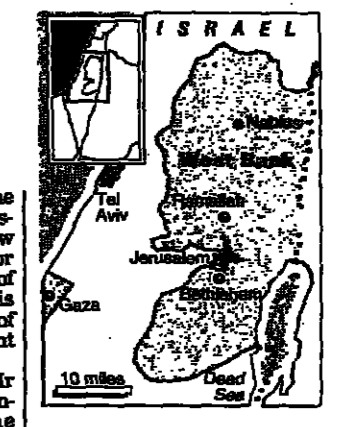
In Lebanon's refugee camps yesterday, a Palestinian strike closed schools and shops and other businesses. In Ein el-Hilweh, the largest camp, Palestinians hoisted black flags and burned tyres. In the northern town of Tripoli, hundreds of refugees staged a sit-in.

In the Syrian capital, Damascus, the ruling party's Al-Baath newspaper called the opening of the tunnel "the beginning of a new uprising", referring to the intifada.

Iran condemned Israel's completion of the tunnel. A foreign ministry spokesman, Mohammad Mohammadi, called the move a "flagrant aggression against the Islamic holy places", the Islamic Republic news agency reported yesterday.

How the hopes for peace unravelled

Countdown/ Shyam Bhatia on the build-up to confrontation



THE writing was on the wall last May when Israelis voted in their new rightwing government. For Palestinians the victory of Binyamin Netanyahu and his Likud Party meant the end of their dream of independent statehood.

During the campaign Mr Netanyahu stressed that unlike his predecessors he would build more Jewish settlements and strengthen Israel's grip on Arab East Jerusalem.

These were the warning shots, but the real battle started when Mr Netanyahu gave key cabinet posts to well-known hawk.

Within days Mr Netanyahu telephoned King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to reassure them that his government was committed to the Middle East peace process.

But Mr Netanyahu shunned the president of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat.

Only after American pressure did he agree in July to dispatch his foreign minister, David Levy, to see Mr Arafat.

Two weeks later, in early August, Mr Netanyahu's office banned Mr Arafat from flying between Gaza and the West Bank on the pretext that his helicopters needed safety checks.

The Palestinian president was allowed to make the journey a week later, but at Tel Aviv the pilot was told to stay airborne for 45 minutes before being cleared to land in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The proof for the Palestinians that Mr Netanyahu is not committed to the peace process is his policy on Hebron, the only city still under exclusive Palestinian control.

When Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu met in early September, the Palestinians were surprised to learn that Israel was delaying the

army's withdrawal. Mr Netanyahu's excuse was concern for the security of about 400 Jewish extremists living in the city centre.

Further evidence that the peace process was unravelling was provided when Israel announced plans to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Only last week the cabinet approved building 200 homes in Kiryat Sefar, a settlement near Ramallah.

The government also began confiscating thousands of acres of Palestinian-owned lands to build "safe" roads for the exclusive use of Jewish settlers. More land was taken to expand existing settlements.

However, both sides knew that the real flashpoint would be over Jerusalem.

When a Palestinian councillor opened an office in his Jerusalem home in late July, it was closed down.

Last month Israeli bulldozers demolished a Palestinian youth centre in the walled city, claiming it had been built without planning permission. Dozens of Arab homes are set to be demolished for the same reason.

These measures led the Palestinians to believe that the battle for Jerusalem had started. Palestinian human rights activists reported last week that several Arabs had lost their right to permanent residence in the city.

The opening of the archaeological tunnel, Palestinians say, was the final straw.

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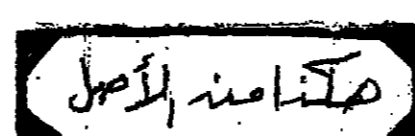
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Dawn clashes lead to day of gunbattles as Islamists call for a jihad • Israeli PM's tunnel vision unleashed violence

Palestine rises in bloody revolt

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

PALESTINIAN and Israeli forces fought pitched battles in the occupied territories yesterday, as the three-year-old peace accord disintegrated into anarchy.

As night fell, the death toll from two days of fierce clashes was 44 Palestinians and 11 Israelis. Hundreds were wounded.

The first clashes were reported soon after dawn. Although there were signs of a nervous calm returning last night, gunbattles were continuing in the main flashpoints.

Israel has been harshly criticised by world leaders, especially in Arab countries, while extreme Islamist groups have called for a jihad, or holy war, in response to the bloodshed. At the United Nations, the Security Council was meeting in special session to discuss the crisis last night despite clear indications that the United States would veto a resolution condemning Israel.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, cut short his three-day visit to London, Paris and Bonn, and flew home from Bonn to take charge of the most serious crisis since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed the peace accord a little more than three years ago.

From his aircraft, he telephoned Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader and Palestinian president, to suggest an early meeting to calm the situation. Mr Arafat said they should discuss meeting after Mr Netanyahu landed.

Moshe Katzav, who was acting prime minister in Mr Netanyahu's absence, said Mr Arafat had promised he would act to end the violence. "If he cannot, then he cannot be a leader," he said.

The military authorities declared a state of emergency in the occupied territories. All army leave and training was cancelled but, as of last night, there was no move to mobilise Israel's formidable reserves.

Large numbers of troops were deployed around the main self-rule enclaves of the West Bank. All Palestinians from the territories were forbidden to enter Israel. For the first time since the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

were conquered in 1967 the Israeli army was obliged to deploy tanks and other armour to protect occupation troops. In Ramallah, helicopter gunships heavy automatic weapons were used to beat back Palestinian forces and a huge mob intent on attacking Israeli positions.

In one of the most dramatic and bloody clashes, an Israeli army position in the Palestinian self-ruled enclave of Nablus in the West Bank was almost overrun and several soldiers killed.

The isolated position, at the site held by religious Jews to be the tomb of the Biblical patriarch Joseph, was attacked by a mob that included many Palestinian policemen.

Major General Uzi Dayan, the Israeli central command chief, said several of the 43 soldiers on duty at the tomb were killed or wounded. Six Israeli Jeeps and two armoured personnel carriers were set ablaze and the building was damaged.

Palestinians in the area said PLO forces kept the mob away from the shrine, and brought the trapped Israelis water and mobile phones to call their families.

There was another dramatic siege in the Gaza Strip, where about 4,000 Jewish settlers live under strong army guard in the midst of more than 800,000 Palestinians. Soon after dawn stone-throwing mobs attacked Israeli positions, backed by elements of the PLO forces armed with automatic weapons.

The small and isolated settlement of Kfar Darom was subjected to a sustained barrage of stones and gunfire. At least three of the dozen or so semi-autonomous forces under Mr Arafat's command were involved, including the coastal police.

A 14-year-old Palestinian girl was among the dead in Gaza. Two Israeli soldiers died when a mob overran a military post near Netzarim, another isolated Jewish settlement near Gaza City.

For the second day, there were heavy exchanges of fire in Bethlehem, where Palestinians attacked Israeli forces at the Tomb of Rachel, a Jewish holy site now heavily guarded.

Turkey has received reports that President Hafez al-Assad of Syria may be ill, but has been unable to confirm them. Tansu Ciller, the foreign minister, said yesterday.



Press photographer Manoocher Deghati screams in pain seconds after being shot yesterday in crossfire in Bethlehem. PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM HOLLANDER

'We are now confronted with a state of war with Israel'
— Mohammed Sobehi, Palestinian ambassador

'What was until now politically doubtful is starting to become a reality full of blood'
— Shimon Peres, Israeli Labour Party leader

'We are defending our hearts. Jerusalem is our heart'
— Palestinian officer

Netanyahu's two faces reveal little about the man

The enigma/Derek Brown on an unpredictable leader who has been described as behaving like an 'elephant in a china shop'

BINYAMIN Netanyahu remains an enigma 100 days after becoming Israel's prime minister. He has appeared to embrace the peace policies of the previous government and he has behaved as if he holds those same policies in contempt. He has assured Arab governments he is committed to peace, and he has identified himself with Jewish expansionism in the occupied territories. It is not just the peace process which brings out Mr Netanyahu's ability to face in two directions at

once. He promised a new economic order with fiscal discipline, privatisation and deregulation. Yet at the first sign of union resistance, he assured them of continuing state control. Mr Netanyahu's inexperience — he is 46 — is an asset, say some admirers. Israelis, they say, voted for "Bibi" because they were fed up with venerable, stuck-in-their-ways tribal elders. But with inexperience tends to go unpredictability. That quality has surfaced time and again in Mr Netanyahu's brief tenure of

office, never more startlingly so than in his decision this week to order the opening of the north end of the ancient Hasmonean tunnel running along the Western, or Wailing, Wall in old Jerusalem. In the popular daily Ma'ariv, columnist Hemi Shalev wrote: "Since he took office, Netanyahu has behaved like an elephant in a china shop." To outsiders, the blood-letting unleashed by the tunnel decision may seem disproportionate. But in Israel the issues were stark.

Many Palestinians believe that the tunnel will physically undermine mosques on Haram al-Sharif, known to Jews as Temple Mount. For Jews, the tunnel is a strong link with their history, and a tourist attraction. Both views are wildly simplistic. It does not run under Haram al-Sharif, and is already open to visitors. The plan to increase the capacity of the tunnel is 10 years old but has been shelved by successive governments who knew how sensitive it was. Ze'ev Shiff, writing in yesterday's Haaretz daily, said the decision to go ahead was made without consulting all the appropriate security

and intelligence officials. He went on: "The astounding thing is that when the decision was made, it was well known in the prime minister's office that there was a possibility that it would result in violence... Nevertheless, the decision was made under the assumption that after the first spate of reactions, things would calm down... Fiery reactions from Arab countries such as Jordan were not taken into account." Earlier this week the prime minister offered this optimistic view of peace prospects. "I said we'll create informal contacts with the Palestinian Authority. We did. Secondly, we'll create formal contacts on the

ministerial level. We did. Thirdly, we'll arrive at a package, a way of addressing the outstanding issues. We did. And fourthly, we'll begin to negotiate on the key issues, all of them, including Hebron, and we're doing that." Minutes earlier, he had offered another view on relationships with the Palestinians. "My family came here to this land 100 years ago. There was practically no one here. We brought this land back to life. For me to think that this is a strange land which I have to disown is abhorrent. I understand that others may have attachments as well, but this doesn't mean I have to shed mine," he said.

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Pull back from the brink

Clinton must start piling pressure on Israel

HOW CAN Israel dig itself and the Palestinians out of the abyss into which the peace process is now sliding? Stopping the violence only tackles the consequence not the cause. In what may be becoming a new intifada, no amount of instructions from Yasser Arafat will check every stone-thrower — or restrain Hamas. What is needed is to start, or re-start, something which has ground to a shattering halt — the peace process itself.

Mr Netanyahu's government, as Malcolm Rifkind has said, must spell out the Israeli position and "actually enter into the negotiations in a constructive way." Mr Rifkind adds that he is not yet persuaded that the Israeli government has clarified even in its own mind what its strategic objective might be. In terms of muffled British diplomacy, this is strong stuff. It is a pity that John Major did not say as much, or more, publicly when Mr Netanyahu was passing through. It has been left to President Clinton, once again, to state clearly how most Europeans see the situation, with his telephone call to Mr Arafat and France's unequivocal criticism of the foolish "tunnel" provocation in Jerusalem. Mr Netanyahu has said he is "proud that we did it [completing the tunnel close to the Temple Mount] now". That is of a piece with his superficial and over-assertive approach to these matters of huge and grave importance. Commentators in some of the main Israeli newspapers are in no doubt. They describe Mr Netanyahu as an "endemic refusenik", who has created "a dangerous tide" in relations with the Arab world, and an apprehension of the "next war" among ordinary Israelis at home. Yet he was elected by a bare majority of them.

It is only too easy to delude oneself. Mr Netanyahu has reneged on some commitments and procrastinated on many others: worse, he has created an

expectation that he will go on doing so indefinitely. Palestinians fear that if they accept the new Israeli proposals on Hebron (which jettison a firm agreement already reached) the Likud government will then proceed to unravel the rest of the Oslo accord. In such a climate it is very hard to handle specific flashpoints. The lack of response to Mr Arafat's significant concession in closing down two Palestinian offices in East Jerusalem does not encourage further gestures of goodwill.

Mr Arafat himself has signally failed to establish in his own emerging Palestinian entity any sense of social confidence and democratic accountability which, at this time of crisis, could offer alternatives to stone-throwing and despair. His proliferating police forces are dangerously undisciplined, though it seems clear that in many instances yesterday they only used their weapons after seeing Palestinians killed or wounded by Israeli fire. Increasing numbers of Palestinians reproach Mr Arafat for having gone down the peace process, even if it remains hard to see what alternative he had. In short, this is a situation from which no one in their right minds would want to start — if they were not already there.

It may still not be too late for Mr Netanyahu to demonstrate, as a commentator in Ha'aretz puts it, that he is gaining experience very fast. The tunnel could be closed indefinitely; plans for new settlement housing could be postponed; outstanding commitments, such as free passage between Gaza and the West Bank, could be delivered tomorrow. Washington should take more seriously Mr Netanyahu's recent threat to put his "holy" claim to Jerusalem ahead of good relations with the US. Bill Clinton needs to lift his eyes from the ballot box and pile on the pressure: what Israel needs is cool rethinking and constructive action.

The risk of not defining risk

Patients and doctors will benefit from greater precision

REMEMBER killer pills? Last October's story was about a new generation of contraceptive pills which doubled the risk of blood clots. The research received wide media coverage — by radio, television and press. Hundreds of thousands of women stopped taking the pills. Pregnancies soared and nine months on we saw at least a 10 per cent rise in abortions because of the increase in unwanted pregnancies. Yet what was the true measure of risk? Even after doubling, it remained extremely low: from 1.5 to three per 10,000 women. Ironically, the risk of blood clots from pregnancy is twice as high as the risk from the new pills. Doubling extremely low risks means statistically the risk will remain low.

Alas, journalism frequently fails to relay this fact. Reporters intent on "selling" their stories to news desks are not going to get much space with a news story which declares that only three out of 10,000 women will get blood clots if they persist with the new generation of pills. Small earthquakes no longer get much space. But the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) is right to try and improve the reporting of risk. As a first step he set out some definitions for debate this week.

It is not just the general newspaper reader who could benefit from this exercise. Patients and doctors could benefit too. Doctors are far too imprecise about the risks which patients face from drugs or treatments, frequently because they do not know themselves.

Telling someone there is a low risk is meaningless. If a consensus can be achieved on definitions — the CMO has produced his own list beginning with high (greater than one in 100) down to negligible (one in a million) — then doctors can be asked to be more precise. It will all add to the growth of evidence-based medicine. There are already well-established risk ratios for some conditions: from a one-in-six chance of transmission from HIV mother to child in Europe to a one-in-a-million chance of an adverse response to a polio vaccination, but many more are needed.

Further down the road, the CMO believes a risk rating could be given of the danger posed by new drugs and clinical procedures. None of this will be simple. Distinctions will need to be made between acceptable and unacceptable, avoidable and unavoidable, and justifiable and unjustifiable risks. Some patients will not want to know the precise risks but many will. Some risks are reassuring: the one-in-a-million chance of dying through being hit by lightning compared to a one-in-two heavy smoker dying from a tobacco-related disease. Not all will be persuaded to change their behaviour, as smokers demonstrate. Probabilities do not tell the individual whether they will be the one who will be hit. Pessimists may believe they will always be the one in a million to be hit; optimists that they will always be the one in two to escape. The CMO quotes Kant: "We see things not as they are, but as we are."

For butler or worse

Absolute deference is the order of the day

I always treat butlers with absolute deference. I think they are long-suffering in many ways. They share almost a common experience as do representatives of Sinn Fein — Gerry Adams, explaining his taste for P G Wodehouse.

"JEEVES," I said, the way one does when he shimmers into the room bearing the restorative snifter. I dimly remembered a little dinner for Gussie Pink-Nottle at the Drones. Hearing the chimes at midnight had been only the start of the revelry. Somehow the chimes had locked into my skull, but Jeeves's bracer began to silence the din, clear the mists and put together the scrambled jig-saw of my mind. As usual some of the pieces were missing.

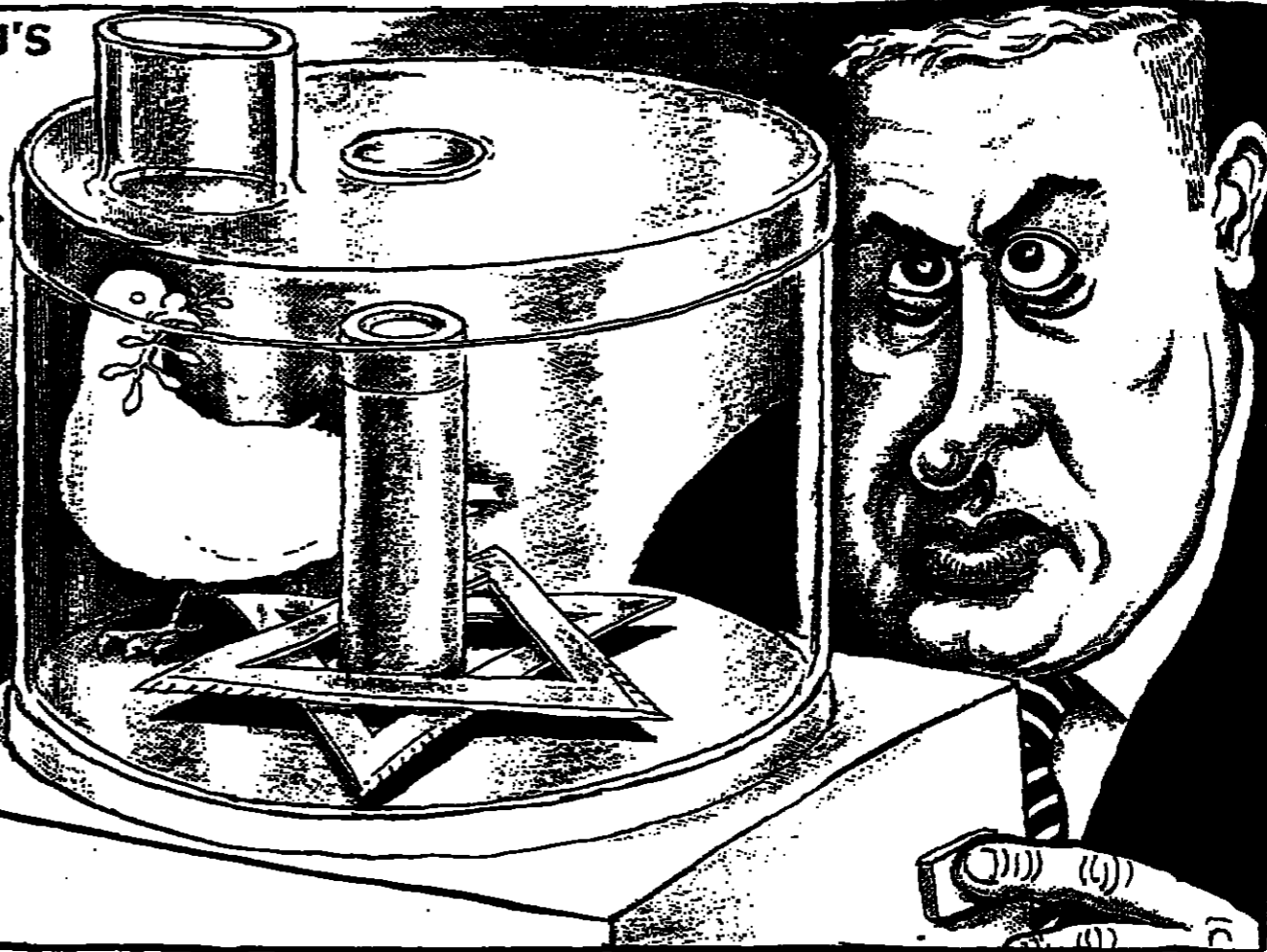
"Tell me, Jeeves, would you call yourself — well — long-suffering?"
"Since you ask, sir, I confess that there have been times when my patience has been somewhat tested." I let

this mull over in the noddle before lobbing a supplementary: "Jeeves, you must know a butler or two. In fact, I would wager you know just about every butler currently butling."
"My acquaintance does indeed include numerous male servants, sir, in charge of the wine, table, etcetera." The fellow's a walking dictionary.

"Would a fellow called Adams ring a bell with these butler chums of yours?"
"Mr Gerry Adams? He is indeed well-known to the butling fraternity, sir. Rarely does a day pass without Mr Adams conversing with several, both within and without his employ."
"And how does he treat them?"
"Just as he is said to treat representatives of Sinn Fein."
"And how is that?"
"With absolute deference. Will there be anything further, sir?"
"That will be all, Jeeves," I said, returning to my Molotov cocktail.

NETANYAHU'S PATENT PEACE PROCESSOR

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Letters to the Editor

Jeremy's friends come to his aid

This Castle is under attack

THERE appears to have been a concerted plot to single out Jeremy Corbyn by the Labour Party's front bench to which your leader-writer has given uncensored service (Even the foolish have rights, September 26). Corbyn's alleged crime is no greater than that of 12 other Labour MPs who met Sinn Fein after the Canary Wharf bombing to urge a resumption of the IRA ceasefire. Was the timing then so good and the timing now so bad?

When Donald Dewar complains about timing, just days after the discovery of IRA bomb-making equipment, one suspects that what he really means is that it is an uncomfortable row just before Labour's saccharine showpiece in Blackpool. The truth is that Tony Blair would like to be rid of his own MP. Any candidate attempting to climb out awkward, passionate and popular socialist politicians is good enough in the pursuit of power.

Further, is it really foolish to argue that any IRA ceasefire requires Sinn Fein to play a leading role? The foolish thing, surely, is the British attitude to the whole republican movement, which has led to growing restlessness that the peace process was not bearing fruit. Stephen Overell, 15 Monmouth Road, London N19 5SA.

THE Labour Party front bench have once again shot themselves in the foot

over the furor they have created over the invitation to the House of Commons extended by Jeremy Corbyn to Gerry Adams. The arm-waving protests which greet any official recognition given to Sinn Fein leaders constitute the best publicity which the latter could hope for. It was, after all, the cries of anguish over Adams's visit to the United States which helped to make his visit there such a public-relations triumph.

The ending of the broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein has been extremely instructive in this regard. Incessant media exposure has not been very kind to Adams. It mercilessly showed up his failure to condemn the Manchester bombing, in addition, the constant broadcasting of his endless invocations against the British Government are revealing him as the anachronistic and sterile figure which, in reality, he is.

The more platforms he is given, the less sympathy Adams is likely to receive. The more platforms he is denied, however, the more he is allowed to portray himself as the persecuted freedom fighter. Is that what the Labour front bench want?

Walter Cairns, 836 Wilmshurst Road, Manchester M20 8RP.
DURING the 16 years I spent in prison with other members of the Birmingham Six, Jeremy Corbyn was one of very few people willing to speak out for us in public. Without his brave

efforts, we might still be languishing in prison for a crime we did not commit. In the 1970s, there was an atmosphere of anti-irish hysteria which made it impossible for us to receive a fair trial. Today, the same prejudices and knee-jerk emotional reactions make it difficult for honest Members of Parliament like Corbyn to engage in constructive dialogue with all the parties involved in the conflict in Northern Ireland.

I know I speak for all the Birmingham Six in declaring our huge respect for Jeremy Corbyn and our belief that this country is a better place for ordinary people thanks to his hard work over many years of public service. Gerry Hunter, Address withheld.

I FOUND your comments on Jeremy Corbyn distressing. Had it not been for the brave and indefatigable efforts of a handful of people like Corbyn, I would still be in prison for a crime I did not commit, as would the Guildford Four. This country desperately needs politicians like Corbyn who will speak out for just causes, no matter how unpopular they may be. In championing dialogue with Sinn Fein, he is making a practical contribution to peace in Ireland. Far from being a "fool" he is a wise man who takes his responsibilities far more seriously than most politicians. Judith Ward, North Promenade, St Anne's F45 7ND.

NEITHER Jeremy Corbyn's statements nor his actions are any different from those of John Hume, who has won widespread praise for his role in the peace process. It seems that if John Hume had been a member of Tony Blair's New Labour, he would never have been permitted to take the risks necessary to achieve peace. Mike Marquess, 126b St Paul's Road, London N1 2LR.

THERE are many questions that the Metropolitan Police need to answer over the killing of Diarmuid O'Neill (Death at Dawn, September 26). Not least is how they imagined that a person who had been in a CS-filled room for "some minutes" might be in a fit state to see the police, let alone defend himself.

Perhaps of more concern is the way in which the authorities have attempted to justify the killing by spreading unproven allegations against the dead man. He has never been found guilty of any offence in connection with terrorism and should be presumed innocent. If anyone other than the police and the security services had been involved in killing an unarmed person by shooting them six times, then everyone involved would be under very close arrest and no statements would be permitted pending court action. (Dr) J P Rockett, Upperstones, High Street, Stonebroom, Derby DE55 6JT.

THE motion on pensions which Lady Castle hopes next week's Labour Party conference will accept (An acid test for Labour, September 17; Letters, September 26) will do nothing for most of the poorest pensioners, will raise expectations about future earnings-related state pensions which cannot be fulfilled, and will absorb practically all future increases in public expenditure. In addition, the Castle changes will cost existing occupational-pension contributors up to £550 a year.

While the proposal to raise the state retirement pension in line with earnings will cost next year £0.5 billion, not a single penny of this will go to the largest group of poorest pensioners claiming income support. This group will only gain if income support rates are also raised. If that is done, bang goes any attempt by a future Labour government to disengage from means-testing. Rebuilding Serps is undesirable. This Government has halved Serps entitlement only to have it again. What possible guarantee can Labour offer that a future Tory government will not act in an identical way? Rather than revisiting the past the Labour Party should commit itself to a threefold pensions strategy: ● The four million workers outside the National Insurance scheme should be brought within it and thereby begin building up contributions to a flat-rate retirement pension. ● Every worker earning over a modest amount must contribute to a second, funded pension. Contributor-ownership of this capital will make it near impossible for a government to renege on the value of this pension, as a Tory government has twice done to Serps pensioners. ● Re-investigate the last Labour government's policy of the DSS visiting retired people in order to find those pensioners eligible for income support but not claiming.

Aneurin Bevan said socialism was the language of priorities. Rebuilding Serps would mean that none of Labour's other major objectives could be achieved as practically all increases in public expenditure would be taken up in chasing a state pension fantasy. A vote for the Castle motion will mean a new tax on 16 million contributors to existing second pensions. You can tell Barbara is not a candidate at the next election. Frank Field MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Falling out over Bosnia

AS an observer of the Bosnian elections, I found Julian Borger's recent article complaining of election fixing in favour of the Muslim candidate Alija Izetbegovic (West covering-up mass fraud in Bosnian polls, September 24) somewhat hypocritical.

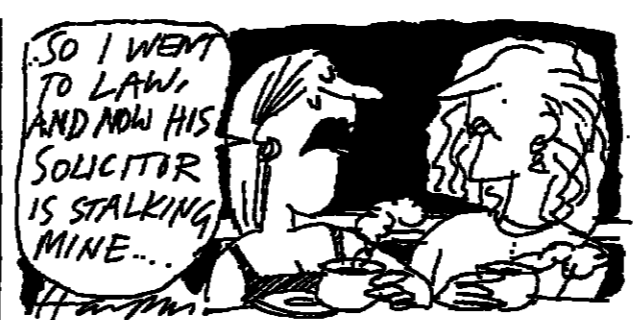
Borger, like Martin Woollacott and Guardian leader-writers, has consistently supported the floating of democracy calling for the penalisation of Bosnian candidates who expressed popular opposition to liberal multi-culturalism or the artificial borders imposed by the Dayton agreement.

Borger, who has argued for a "benign colonial regime" or an "international protectorate" in Bosnia (Trials and error for a Bosnian solution, September 7), has little right to complain now about the Bosnian people's democratic wishes being undermined. Dave Chandler, International Social Policy Research Unit, Leeds Metropolitan University, Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 3HE.

WHILE there is still some leverage on Serbia arising from doubts about the lifting of sanctions, it is essential to get Mr Milosevic to procure the compliance by the Republika Srpska with the surrender of persons wanted for trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Those who perpetrate war crimes and crimes against humanity have enjoyed impunity since Nuremberg. With the establishment of the ICTY, the tribunal on Rwanda, and moves to establish an international criminal court having universal jurisdiction, there was hope that a new era of deterrence and punishment of these offences had dawned.

The opportunity must not be allowed to slip because of a failure of political will. Lord Avebury, House of Lords, London SW1A 0AA.



The defence was asking for it

DAVID Stanton, the defence barrister in the stalking case (Fury over stalking case, September 25), is a well-presented man, who obviously likes to look his best. He takes a great deal of thought over his appearance, and sets out to make himself attractive to women. Had he been stalked for eight months by a woman much bigger and stronger than himself, with a record of assault, who threatened him with a wallpaper scraper a couple of times, would he have simply shrugged his saucy little shoulders and said: "Well, I suppose I asked for that. Better dress in a bin-liner in future"? I suggest not. A J Arscott, Church Cottage, West Sussex BN9 8RH.

THE defence barrister's extraordinary insults in the stalking case were possibly

born of desperation for any argument favouring his client. The fundamental fault is the antiquated adversarial system, which is a debating game for lawyers.

We need radical reforms to revive the naive ideal that courts might also serve justice. For instance, disband the jury system; hear all complaints within seven days; make defendants and plaintiffs speak for themselves; allow no coaching of litigants; make perjury subject to severe sentences; limit the solicitors' role to preparing agreements that will stand up in court.

Such reforms would cost less than the legal-aid fund and deliver justice rapidly and impartially with all lawyers concurring to discover the truth. Noel Hodson, 14 Brookside, Headington, Oxford OX3 7PJ.

Warning: more bad language

VISITED our new Safeways in Bredbury, Stockport, today. On the bulletin board that listed "Opportunities", I spotted "Ambient Replenishment". Sensual, but potty. I asked the cashier (Non-Operative Point Of Sales Operator, or whatever) whether this meant supermarket self-stacker. She nodded, glumly. Is this a Safeways Human Resource Management ploy, or in what sense does stacking supermarket shelves (ambiently) represent an Opportunity? Do other readers have a better example of post-

modernist management bollocks-speak? George Kershaw, 3 Beechwood Avenue, Romley, Cheshire SK6 4DL.

I AGREE with Constant Moore (Letters, September 26) that feminism still has far to go; but she must be careful when claiming that men's ultimate swear word is a derogation of female genitalia. Has she not heard of the phrase "a load of bollocks"? Roger Lewis, Densworth Road, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9AU.

Mandy's media

IT is with total dismay that I read that Mandy Mandelson has described not only Andy McSmith but also Nigel Williamson as "one of the most biased, malicious and unpleasant journalists at Westminster" (Letters, September 26). He also described me in the same terms. I have now lost what I foolishly thought was my sole distinction as a hack. Hugh Macpherson, Tribune, 306 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DY.

[NOTE that the slogan behind the LibDems' podium at Brighton says "Take Courage For The Future". I thought brewers only supported the Tories. Ron Bill, 59 Park Court, Harlow, Essex CM20 2FZ.

A Country Diary

GLoucestershire: Good news on the owl front, I am pleased to report — the lawns are back. Although when we first moved here some eight years ago the night air was often richly alive with the calls of tawny owls, we have had a bleak period for some years. But this autumn they are clearly re-occupying territory left vacant for some years. My colleague, the distinguished earth scientist, Dr Beck, suggests a plausible explanation. It is that these owls are the young of this year's nestlings, being pushed out to independence by their parents and therefore needing to establish their own territory. We have much to offer a family of tawny owls — including an enormous, ivy-clad sycamore, which must be the owl equivalent of a desirable, detached residence in estate-agent-speak. They are clearly very close again for, late one evening last week, the call of the tawny owl was so loud in the bedroom that its author must have been perched on the gutter just above the window. Good news also for our flock

of Herdwicks, the fattest sheep in the county. On Friday, after many a wearying adventure with the animal trailer on the M5 in the rush hour, we brought home from the Cotswold Farm Park a good-looking young ram, Herbert, who will be charged with responsibility for impregnating the ewes this tupping season. His is clearly sizing up the challenge — sniffing the air with his long, upper lip curled back in the distinctive pose of the ram about to get busy. He's a bit small compared with previous users of the middle business — I shall need to shorten the straps and tighten the buckles as well as refresh the wax block. A splendid cameo scene was observed from the window shortly after dawn this morning: young fox is crossing the field when elderly Herdwick ewe puts her head down and charges at him, clearly determined to be rid of him and his family of vicious killers — an ever-present danger at lambing time. I was so impressed I went down to give her an apple. COLIN LUCKHURST

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Diary

Matthew Norman

THE emergence of humour as a deadly arrow in the political quiver is, as we have reflected before, one of the curses of the age... but now things are getting out of hand. Yesterday, comedian Mark Steel wrote on this page deriding Mr Tony Blair's failed attempt to sequester Rory Bremner's scriptwriters...

THE Maxwell Penstoners' annual outing approaches (the Captain went overboard on November 5) and for the fifth anniversary it's a week's package in Tenerife, off the coast of which it happened. Plans are already being made for a trip to the Captain's Mount of Olive rising place for what, presumably, will be a dancing holiday.

IR Bernard Ingham's appointment as Diary Astrologer has again been delayed. When my colleague Emily Barr rang to ask if he has signed up for a Tony revival in the stars, Bernie made her repeat the question before embarking upon the harrrumphing. "But I don't TOUCH the stars," spluttered Bernie. "This is the third time you've asked me! Yes, but not the last! Will you call that stupid man Norman that I DO NOT BOTHER with the stars. Thank you." This is encouraging: Bernie was a decibel and a quarter less loud than last time, and managed a courteous farewell.

THE front page of the Daily Telegraph carries a picture of Mrs Major and the words "Norma throws out her ironing board". It's a miracle, a miracle! Only two days ago, Terry Major-Ball was bemoaning his board — the one Young John gave him for a wedding present — and now this. "She's throwing it out?" says Terry, astonished, when we call. "But I always thought her ironing board was a built-in one, that folds away into the wall." He pauses for a second, then continues. "Maybe they've got two. Young John does have a lot of shirts after all." Wouldn't Norma's discard, we wonder, be the ideal substitute for his own, which is too narrow to take a full trouser? But the news has shocked Terry — "thrown it out? are you sure?" — and for the moment he is unable to think of the future.

HELLO! magazine is a moving apology to his wife, Princess Stephanie of Monaco, from the adulterous Daniel Ducruet. "I have betrayed my wife, I have betrayed her love, and I have betrayed my children," says M Ducruet. We hear there was more to the quote — "I've let the school down, I've let the house down, and I've let you down... but most of all, Sir, I've let myself down" — but Hello! was unable to print it due to lack of space.

CONTROVERSY has struck Auckland-based television station TVNZ, where a reporter concluded an item on problems with British tourists' holidays by saying that "Brits are at last learning how to complain". At this, anchor woman Judy Bailey chipped in with the thought that, in her experience, British people have never been shy in voicing dissatisfaction... and within minutes, the switchboard was jammed by British expats, complaining furiously that this was nonsense. Truly, it would seem, does not travel well.



An Alf Garnett version of European history

Commentary

Peter Preston

TAKE two women, and one is a general super-state. Both glow in its star-spangled beam. Diana, PoW, turns white and gold and radiant when rich Washington pays her court. Margaret, Baroness of Rusted Memory, exudes a parallel, purring enjoyment. I remember seeing her make a little speech last June on the steps of the American Ambassador's residence. She truly loved that audience, utterly at home. She basked again this week, delivering the first James Bryce American Commonwealth lecture in the Great Hall at Lincoln's Inn.

why is America so splendid, so powerful, so crucial to Margaret Thatcher's world? Unlike she said the French Revolution of 1789, the American Revolution of 1776 was a sober affair. "And the sobriety and success of the American founding stemmed in large part from the liberal traditions that had grown up in Britain during America's recent colonial past." Moreover, "even the American Revolution itself was a decidedly English affair." (Note that word, "English".) When the time came to dissolve the political bands by which they had been connected to England, Americans turned for their guidance to the likes of John Locke, Algernon Sidney and James Harrington.

muddy road" of socialism — "whether led by our own socialists or by those in Brussels" — an alien bog of "restraint and servitude". We stand together, she said, "on the same hallowed ground". The basic principles of America and Britain had "served as a beacon to the world, lighting the way through the darkest days of the century" — as precipitated by "German imperialism, fascist aggression and finally communist tyranny". Inevitably, in four paragraphs squeezed from a lecture 20 times as long, I do her some injustice: but not, I hope, a lot. Her thesis, with copious quotes from Thomas Jefferson, has force and respectability attached. But let's try to put it in other words. Say, other words from Mrs Thatcher herself as Prime Minister, on the wonder of German reunification, as reported by one of her closest advisers, George Urban. "It was clear she was hostile to the whole idea on the grounds of old-fashioned nationalism," he writes in a new memoir of his time with the lady. "I was amazed to hear her utter views about people and countries, especially Germany, which were not at all different from the Alf Garnett version of history." What about the democratic effort and resource West Germany had brought to Europe in the

decades after 1945? She said: "They have simply been paying reparations for all the things they did during the war." There was "no question that, if the Germans were reunited, they would once again dominate the whole of Europe." A national "unreliability of character". Urban sees this latterday Thatcher too full of "overweening self-confidence and self-importance". Maybe she was, in her pomp, "too good" to be Prime Minister of Britain. Maybe she should have been "President of Taiwan or the United States". And here the headlines of the week begin to pulsate, here Ken Clarke and Nick Bonsor and the rest join in: for this, at root, is what it is all about. It is the European way, scarred by a malevolent history, foreign ideas and febrility of character, something the Conservative Party can ever come to terms with? Isn't the American way.

Maybe Mrs Thatcher should have been President of Taiwan or the United States

which can also be appropriated as the "English" way, the fount of belief and the future? (Add or delete your own expletives). I like Mrs T's love America too. It is a fascinating, bustling, inspiring place. But it is not any longer the country of her dreams or her insulated confection. In no remote sense is it "English". White Anglo Saxon Protestants — as Alistair Cooke said this week — are a tiny,

shrinking minority in his changing New York. The Chinese and the Japanese and the Koreans and the Mexicans, and countless more, aren't just coming; they have already come. That constant ferment is where the fascination lies. And with it comes a constant change in the self-perception of a nation. Does she realise that? When she rails against political correctness, does she remember where PC came from? When she does the "world beacon" bit, has she any idea of how long and how deeply America's politicians think of England?

Take this year's manifesto from the Republicans, the party of "my dear friend Ronald Reagan". It is 106 pages long. The word "Britain" is not mentioned anywhere. North Korea, Bosnia, even Cyprus vs. No Britain, America is a foreign country, as foreign in its ways and rhythms as any in Europe. Its rich and famous may turn out for the Princess of Wales, fresh off the magazine stand, as they would for a super Trump or Grace Kelly's princess daughter. But that's fleeting celebrity, nothing more. Mrs Thatcher still hangs on the peripheries of that circuit, and loves it. But she, and all those who share her assumptions, confuse the show and the reality. America itself is taking stock in continuous translation. So is Europe, lecturing in which an old man, his ears and hands and most of his right leg blown off by a sawn-off Colt .44 triple-action repeater, crawls his way to the shelter of a tub of water, only to find that his left leg, what remains of both arms and a good percentage of his head are all shot off by a man with a machine-gun.

Sam Peckinpah, Martin Scorsese — and me



Bel Littlejohn

This is an edited version of the Sam Peckinpah Memorial Lecture, Raining Reservoir Cats And Dogs, delivered by Bel Littlejohn to the British Film Institute last May, taken from the collection Screen Violence (ed Karl French), published this week by Bloomsbury.

THERE is a truly memorable scene in Sam Peckinpah's movie Now Take It Away Again. The little-known sequel to Bring Me The Head Of Alfredo Garcia, in which an old man, his ears and hands and most of his right leg blown off by a sawn-off Colt .44 triple-action repeater, crawls his way to the shelter of a tub of water, only to find that his left leg, what remains of both arms and a good percentage of his head are all shot off by a man with a machine-gun.

Violent? Maybe, to the squeamish. Yet it is a scene that is also strangely compassionate, even poignant: the anti-hero of the movie, the unnamed "X", is so enraged by this ruthless act that he takes out his machete and slices the heads off over 80 Mexican bandits in less than 35 marvellous screen seconds. The rest, of course, is perhaps one of the most gentle and profound moments in cinematic history: in a stunning sequence, one of these heads rolls down a slope, knocking over a can of oil. The oil is set alight by a smouldering match, and within the next 17 screen seconds a further 328 men, women and children are burnt to death. The director's use of the telling close-up is particularly noteworthy in some of the "reaction shots" (surprised, outraged, bemused, resigned) of the blazing victims.

Happily, salvation — a kind of Biblical salvation, at once primitive yet strangely up to date — is at hand, in the shape of Maria Schneider, who has tragically lost all her clothes in an earlier accident involving a misplaced safety pin. After taking a well-earned break from her responsibilities as Avenging Angel by soundlessly consenting to 16 screen minutes of sexual intercourse with "X", the Schneider character murders a further 148 bandits before "talking the dying X" thus injecting a much-needed note of optimism into this otherwise bleak yet strangely cathartic slice of life.

In my opinion, Now Take It Away Again — allusive, poignant, simple, amusing — is one of the 17 greatest Peckinpah movies of all time. Yet

still there are those who, from their towers of ignorance, stand in judgment on the so-called "harmful effects" of violence on the screen. Do they not realise that movies such as Now Take It Away Again and Tarantino's brilliant Reservoir Dogs do not create violence, but merely reflect the violence inherent in our society? Why, only five years ago I was witness to an act of this type of violence: a Guardian colleague (named, need I say) had been informed by the chief sub that his leading article had been cut by three lines. He banged the desk with his fist in an act of wholly male violence the like of which I hope never to witness again.

Pedro's may argue that my colleague did not in fact murder eight people in 36 seconds with a sawn-off Colt .44 triple-action repeater: but the effect was just the same, or reasonably similar, at least for the desk. So let me tell you we don't live in a culture of violence, a culture for which films are merely the unwilling messengers. As Mister Pink put it as he shot the kneecaps off the delivery man in that beautifully styled and strangely beautiful sequence in Reservoir Dogs: No Way, José.

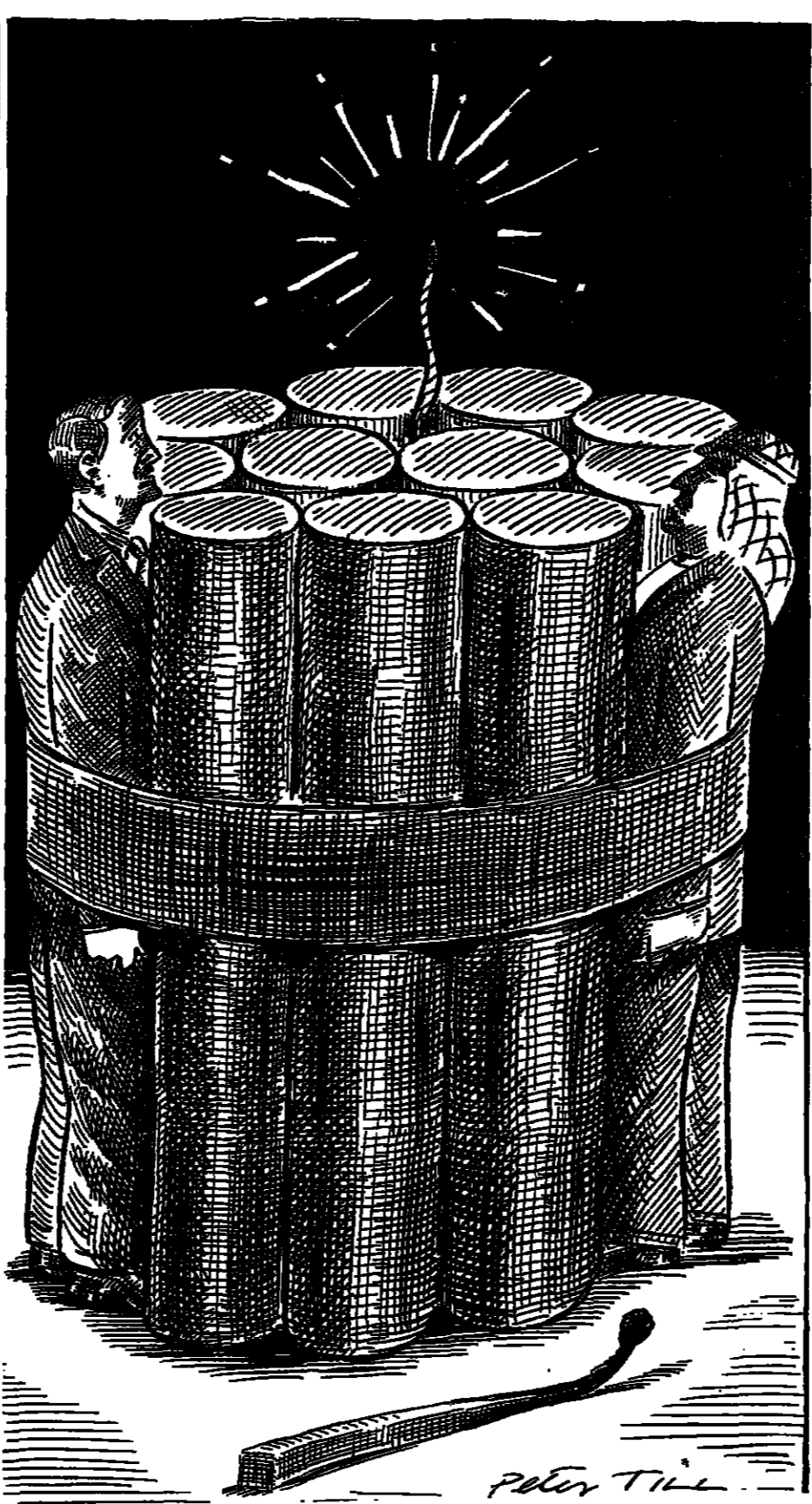
When it comes to a master of the modern movie such as Martin Scorsese, I speak from personal experience. Just six months ago, my literary agent, bless her, rang to tell me that Scorsese was interested in buying the film-rights for my critically acclaimed Fluffy The Dolphin series of children's books, with Robert de Niro as the gentle and how Marty would like to meet me. Our meeting took place over lunch at the Caprice. Demonstrating the outline plot with his knife and my knife, Marty told me how he saw Fluffy as essentially a loner driven crazy by the immoral mayhem of the big city. At this point, he surmised the waiter. "Scuse me, mister!" he barked. "We need a whole lot more knives!"

I HAD originally written the Fluffy The Dolphin series for children, but he reached for his chequebook, Marty convinced me that Fluffy was better suited to an adult audience, an audience that could recognise the great anti-violent message of the proposed new climax in which Fluffy, brutally bludgeoned a dozen hucksters to death on a Manhattan sidewalk before blowing his own brains out with a shotgun. Of course, when the movie finally appears, Fluffy will not be called Fluffy but Snipes, and he won't be a dolphin but a small-time Italian mobster with a gammy leg and a speech impediment. But the essential integrity of the work — and its author — will not be tampered with. And, my god, that's what matters most. Thank you — and safe journey. (Pause for applause.)

Martin Woollacott warns that unless the Netanyahu government accepts the Palestinian land-for-peace offer, the consequences for the region will be catastrophic

Eleventh hour in Israel

THE illusion that there can be security without justice, with which Binyamin Netanyahu seduced Israelis in the last election, lies shattered in the streets of Gaza and Ramallah. Netanyahu promised Israelis that they could have security, the physical safety they naturally crave after generations in the firing line, and yet pay no price for it either in land or in changes in the political status of Palestinians.



His mendacity or self-delusion is now clear for all to see. But the failure is not his alone. It is ironic that in the centennial year of Zionism — Theodor Herzl's The Jewish State was published in February 1896 — Zionism in its Likud variant should persist so blindly in the denial to Palestinians of the human and political rights which Jews in Israel have so vigorously demanded for themselves. Where Herzl once saw his imagined Israelis chatting in German in Viennese-style cafes, with grateful Arabs in the background, their sons grapple in combat with Palestinian enemies. What Netanyahu and his government refuse to see, with not a shred of the excuses that can be offered for the early Zionists, is that one state evoked another, and until the Palestinian state is as much a reality as the Jewish one, there can be no guarantee of security. Perhaps not even then, but not until then.

proved correct. The Arabs, including the Palestinians, have negotiated from a position of weakness. But the sting in the tail has been that, in the end, the Palestinians are still there, still angry, and still dangerous. And an iron wall is costly to maintain. It was Netanyahu who was the prophet of the "easy" version of the iron wall. He sold a fable to the more gullible among the Israeli people, distressed that, in spite of peace, Israelis were still dying. This was that "security" could be had with no price to be paid and no dangers to be endured. The settlements could stay and be expanded, the Palestinians could be denied a state. Seeing the Palestinian Authority essentially as nothing more than a defective instrument of Israeli security, he naturally proposed that nothing more be conceded to it, and demanded that it come up to scratch, as if it were a mercenary police force falling down on the job.

What emerged then, at the tail end of the Likud tradition, was a bastard version which held that security could be had without costs or casualties. It did not envisage the full-scale re-occupation of the territories. That would be too expensive in lives and money and there would be diplomatic costs, too. But, by some magic, the Palestinians would go along with not getting a state and would take no revenge. What was this magic? The answer is pitiful. It was "peace with security". Having virtually nothing to give to the Palestinians, except some economic crumbs, all that could be promised was to trade off Israeli security for Palestinian security. If you don't hurt us, we won't hurt you, also known as We will hurt you if you hurt us. If wars could be ended like this, there would not be a violent spot on the globe.

That is so mindless about this approach is its asymmetry. Jews of course need land, a state, self-esteem and pride. But Palestinians — they, of course, can make do with physical safety alone. If Israel still has the possibility, even under Netanyahu, if he will return from cloud-cuckoo-land, to take up the Palestinian offer, the Palestinians are ready to make peace on the basis of a minimal restitution of what was taken from them. Less than half, perhaps less than a third, of the land that was once Palestinian, and the possibility of erecting on this restricted basis a small state, is symptomatic of the cast of mind of too many Israelis. Labour as well as Likud, that such an offer cannot be seen as what it is — amazing, unprecedented, almost incredible.

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Paul Erdős

Prime figure in numbers

PAUL ERDŐS, who died aged 83 of a heart attack, was one of the world's most famous mathematicians. He was also one of the creators of modern combinatorics.

Combinatorics is fundamental to computer science and the branch of mathematics that deals with arrangements of sets of points, and the counting and classification of objects into types. Its other applications include the design of experiments for testing of drugs and fertilisers intended for use in situations involving many variable factors.

He pioneered probabilistic number theory, and was the greatest prodigy of this century of good mathematical problems. He was also an indefatigable problem solver, and the author of over 1,500 papers, more than 450 with co-authors, a measure of his infectious enthusiasm for the subject.

Erdős was born in Budapest where, after 1920, the Jewish community of over 200,000 led an increasingly beleaguered life. The university would only allow at most 5 per cent of the student population to be Jewish, and many Jewish scientists and mathematicians left.

sometimes staying in one country for only a day before moving on. He was said to live off coffee, amphetamines and anti-depressants, and defined a mathematician as "a machine for turning coffee into theorems". Although he travelled all the time, he was also one of the finest examples of a remarkable, vibrant Hungarian tradition of work in discrete mathematics.

One of his most attractive traits was the ability to formulate stimulating problems. They were often deceptively easy to state, which was part of their attraction. He would often grade them according to difficulty and back up his estimates with financial rewards. The money to pay for them came from his income in fees and occasional mathematical prizes (one, the Wolf Prize, was for \$50,000). But the real reward was the prestige of having solved an Erdős problem — one winner remarked that he had earned his \$250 at about 50 cents an hour.

Indicative of these problems is one he raised and solved (with Gy Szekeres) early in his career. Write the numbers from 1 to n in any order. Then three of them will form a sequence that is either increasing or decreasing. For example, in the sequence 4, 2, 5, 1, 3 the sequence 4, 2, 1 decreases. Erdős showed that if (for any value of n) the numbers $n^2 - 1$ are written in any order, then $n - 1$ of them will form a sequence that is either increasing or decreasing.

Several thorny problems have solutions due to Erdős that are less than a page. With Atle Selberg he is the author of the so-called elementary proof of the prime number

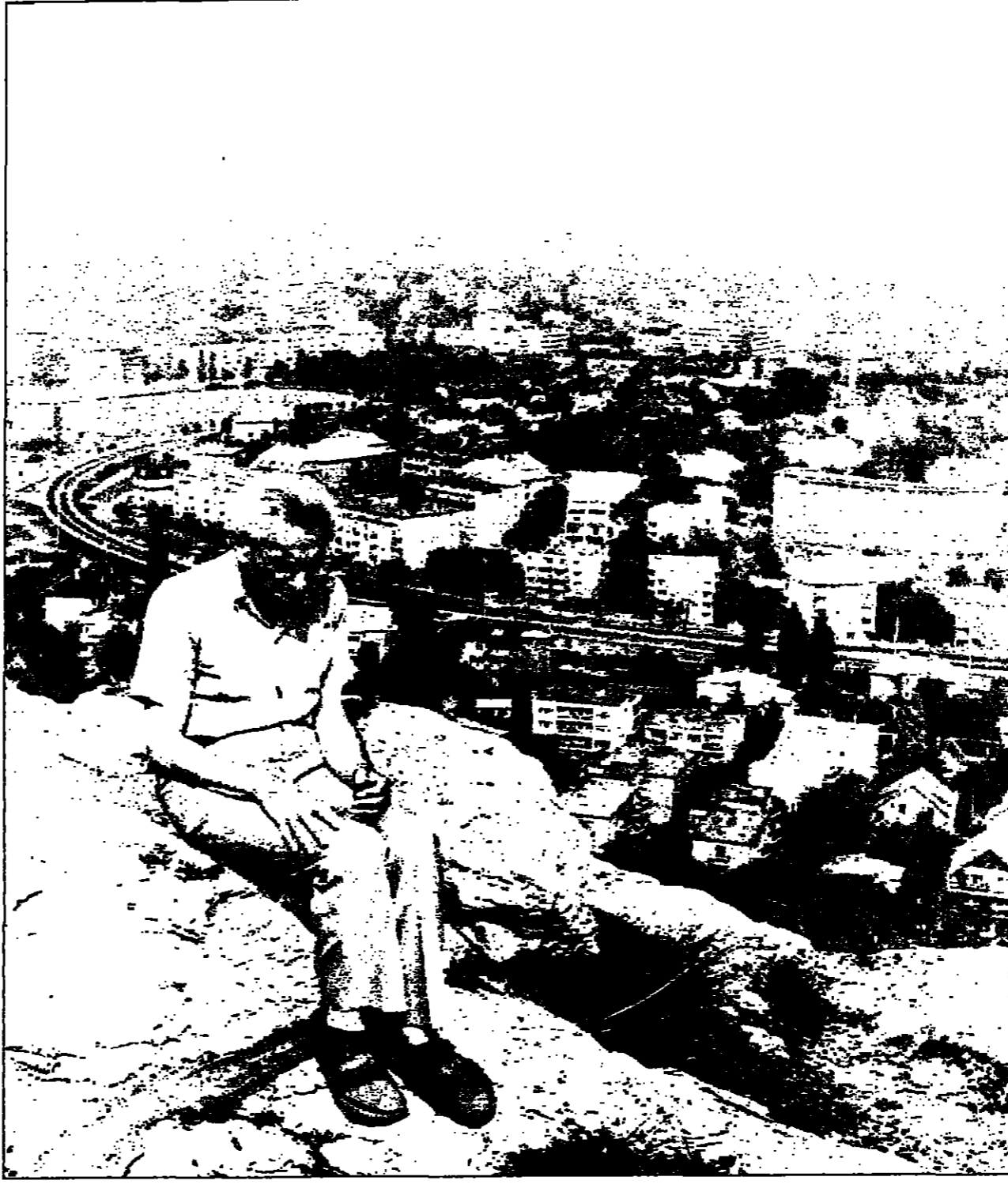
theorem. Prime numbers are numbers that are divisible only by themselves and 1 (they are 2, 3, 5, 7, 11 and so on). The theorem estimates the number of primes less than a number x as a function of x , and was first proved using seemingly unrelated parts of mathematics 100 years ago. The elementary proof uses only direct means, but as is often the case in mathematics the "bare hands" elementary proof remains much harder than the original one.

Erdős's genius was for the problem that requires little mathematical experience to state and only ingenuity to solve. He cared little for the application of his ideas, and remained outside the main currents of mathematics this century, which tended to elaborate and reconceive theory building. The fields of algebraic geometry, algebraic topology and functional analysis (the mathematics for quantum physics) require years of training to enter. Erdős preferred the parts of mathematics that have resisted such elaboration, and did much to keep them alive.

He was a Fellow of the Royal Society and many other national academies, yet for most of his life he never had a permanent address, a cheque book, or paid income tax. His many friends and co-workers agreed that he more than paid his way through life by the stimulus of the challenges he produced and the papers he wrote.

Jeremy Gray

Paul Erdős, mathematician, born March 26, 1913; died September 20, 1996



Problem solver... Paul Erdős in the city of his birth, Budapest

CHRISTOPHER BARKER

Nicu Ceausescu

Schooled in tyranny



A debauched life... Ceausescu after his arrest in 1990

NICU Ceausescu, youngest and favourite son of the late Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who has died aged 45 of liver failure, led a notoriously debauched life that ran the gamut from hedonistic despotism to imprisoned symbol of communist corruption. His death was attributed to decades of heavy drinking and hell-raising in which the name Nicu became a byword for excess, cruelty, and terror.

Nicu was the youngest of the three children of Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu and the heir-apparent until the parents met their fates before a revolutionary firing squad on Christmas Day 1989. Until the regime fell, Nicu lorded it over Transylvania, with his headquarters in the ancient ethnic German city of Sibiu. The venue for the infamous drinking sprees, orgies, and terror campaigns was a fortress in the nearby village of Saliste Patinisi.

When he got bored of the local adolescent girls supplied by his minions for his pleasure, he would take to the gaming tables of Las Vegas. Notable victims of Nicu's indomitable urge to control and humiliate were said to include Nadia Comaneci, an outstanding athlete of her generation who fled Romania

only weeks before the 1989 revolution. Comaneci's mother said that Nicu ordered Nadia's fingernails torn out for resisting his advances and that he had raped the gymnast when she was 17.

In the chaos of post-revolutionary Romania, Nicu became the hated living symbol of the old regime and was put on trial for genocide, although the prosecution later admitted there was no case to answer. In 1990 a military tribunal sentenced him to 20 years for complicity in genocide, for allegedly ordering the shooting of 90 demonstrators in Sibiu during the tumult of December 1989. It later transpired he fled the city in fear for his life the day before the killings.

There followed a saga of appeals and counter-appeals while Nicu was in hospital, allegedly being treated for hepatitis and cirrhosis of the liver. His sentence was commuted to 16 years. But he was released at the end of 1992 and staged a remarkable recovery. While his defence lawyers had presented testimony that he was close to death, he was now to be seen regularly racing his fast cars around Bucharest in the company of young women. By the time the trained physician was released, the appeals procedure had whittled his conviction down to five years, no longer for mass murder, but for illegal firearms possession.

Ian Traynor

Nicu Ceausescu, playboy, born September 4, 1951; September 26, 1996

John Christopherson

A modern art of decay

JOHAN Christopherson, who has died aged 73, was a quiet but talented painter who created a significant niche for himself in modern British art. He was also a collector and connoisseur who felt that despite exhibitions at several renowned London galleries, his achievement had not been fully recognised.

Self-taught, Christopherson contrived a happy, if improbable, marriage between the naive and the sophisticated in his work. The individuality of his style sublimated an eclectic range of influences gleaned from the modern and the ancient worlds.

Christopherson was 30 when he first began to paint, encouraged by Jean Dubuffet, the French painter, with whom he corresponded. At the time he was working for the Geological Museum in South Kensington, a position he held until 1959 when, after marrying a fellow painter, Anne Watson, he decided to take up painting full time.

The legacy of his former job stimulated his interest in time-worn objects, whether natural or man-made. The granular texture of his paintings, created by slowly building up glazes over months or even years, reflected this. What he described as a life-long obsession with "objects, artefacts and buildings which have been moulded and transmuted by the hand of time," led to a melancholic feeling — very much in tune with his own depressive temperament — that forms were subjected to the inevitable hand of natural decay.

Nevertheless, typical street scenes, such as *House in Shooters Hill Road* (1971) seemed to belong to a timeless dream, the tall trees or plumes of chimney smoke suspended in a wind-less vacuum. Christopherson's deserted townscapes, reminiscent of De Chirico and radiating with jewel-like colours, combined topographical memories of the places he grew around his native Blackheath with more abstract symbols and distortions of his visual experience. Occasionally the pictures veered into an entirely abstract idiom, one composed with soft geometric symbols or embodying intimate, mosaic-like designs and pictographic compartments in the manner of Paul Klee.

A recurring element in the street scenes was graffiti; not the angry daubings of disaffection but rather of homage to the cultural heroes like Diego Reinhardt and Nicholas de Stael, names that he revered.

Christopherson ploughed a lone furrow; he never taught in art school and missed the ferment of ideas in the art world from the 1960s onwards. As a result he retained, both in his work and in his life, the ethos and manner of the existentialist 1950s, the decade when his ideas and identity as an artist took root. Certainly his closest allegiances — to the post-war Ecole de Paris

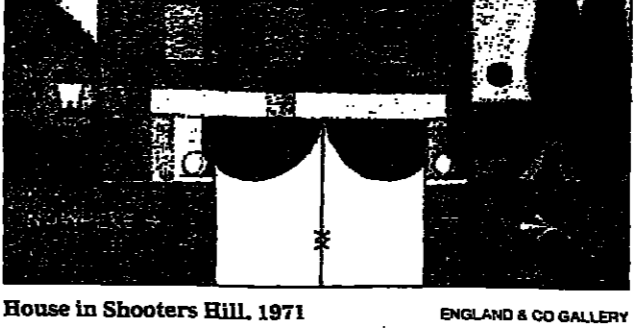
painters like de Stael, Pollock and Dubuffet or to St Ives abstractionists like Peter Lanyon, Ben Nicholson, William Scott and Roger Hilton — belonged to that time. He collected their work too. In his Blackheath home he kept ceramics, modern abstract sculpture, tribal carvings, antiquities and of course post-war painting.

John Christopherson was, however, never isolated. He made almost annual pilgrimages to St Ives, Cornwall, and was a fixture on the London gallery and auction room circuit.

In 1993 Christopherson succumbed to clinical depression which prevented him working, although he did attend his retrospective exhibition at the Woodlands Art Gallery, in Blackheath last December. There seems no doubt that his pictures, described by George Melly as "worth listening to", will grow in stature and speak to an increasingly wide audience.

Peter Davies

John Christopherson, artist and collector, born July 25, 1921; died August 24, 1996



House in Shooters Hill, 1971

ENGLAND & CO GALLERY

Birthdays

Bill Athey, cricketer, 88; Josephine Barstow, soprano, 86; Philip Blacker, jockey, 47; Baroness (Tessa) Blackstone, educationist, master, Birkbeck College, 54; Barbara Dickson, singer, 48; Gordon Honeycombe, author and broadcaster, 60; Michael Hou-

lihan, director, Horniman Museum, 48; Denis Lawson, actor, 49; Prof Geoffrey Martin, historian, 68; Meatloaf, rock singer, 42; Barbara Murray, actress, 67; The Rev Prof Dennis Nineham, theologian, 75; Ian Penderleith, Government broker and executive director, Bank of England, 53; Dr Margaret Rule, research director, Mary Rose Trust, 68.

Letter

Peter Perry writes: The Jaguar "brought" the hitherto exotic feature of twin overhead camshafts within the reach of ordinary motorists," wrote David Burgess-Wise in his obituary of Walter Hassan (August 5). I must point out that Salmons introduced the

twin overhead camshaft layout in the early 1920s and all their cars used this feature until the factory closed in the 1950s. It is said that Walter Hassan had a look at the Salmons engine when designing the Jaguar XK. None of which, of course, detracts in any way from Hassan's eminence as a great automobile engineer.

Jackdaw



Hicksville (sic), New York, from Kelly Services.

* Take minutes during Arnold Schwarzenegger's meeting with the Summit on Youth Fitness in Burlington, Vt. This month's Ambassador, the mag of TWA, lists some odd ads for temporary workers.

Moo support

FOURTEEN farmers who make up the Somerset Levels Male Voice Choir have released a record in the hope of winning back beef sales. The song, *British Beef Is The Best Beef By Far* was written by Ross Young of Stoke St Gregory, Somerset. The B side, *Moo Cow Blues*, looks at BSE from the cows' viewpoint. *Moo blues in Country Life*.

Crazy crisis

A WARNING about the BSE crisis over 70 years ago emerged this week from a magazine based in the West Sussex village of Bosham. One of the features in the magazine, called *Science of*

Thought Review is from 1923, written by Rudolph Steiner and entitled, *If An Ox Eats Meat*.

It says: "If an ox were suddenly to turn into a meat-eater, it would fill itself with all kinds of harmful substances such as uric acid and urates," says Steiner. "Now urates have their specific effects. These are expressed in a particular affinity for the nervous system and the brain. The result is that if an ox were to consume meat directly, large amounts of urates would be secreted. They would enter the brain, and the ox would go crazy. If an experiment could be made in which a herd of oxen were suddenly fed with pigeons, it would produce a completely mad herd of oxen." *If this was spotted so long ago, why did it ever happen?* Reported in the *Meat Trades Journal*.

Back view

IN THIS startlingly excremental movie (figuratively as well as literally) American civilisation is dwarfed by

vast round alien arseholes, which saucily position themselves over the biggest, proudest, shiniest buildings in New York, L.A., Washington etc. After 24 hours of teasingly hovering above these phallic monuments, they open up their sphincters to dump a stream of shit-from-hell, which first demolishes the skyscraper below and then engulfs, destroys and generally messes up the nicely ordered American metropolises around it. That's some bottom.

In case we've missed the point, the gung-ho US pilots who attempt a counter-attack talk a great deal about how they can't wait to "give it to those aliens up the ass". However, they fail to penetrate the aliens' defences with their hot, hi-tech missiles — even the nuclear-tipped babies because the cheeky aliens have a force-field hymen protecting them from such unwanted attentions.

Fortunately, Jeff Goldblum's wily Jewishness saves the day and mankind's reputation as fuckers not to be messed with, by craftily

working out that what is needed to lower the aliens' defences is a virus. Jeff infects the mother vessel by docking with it and the virus is transmitted to the alien ships, whose force-field immune systems collapse. This of course allows Randy Quaid, playing a kamikaze love-missile, to fly up the sphincter of an alien vessel which is opening to crap destruction on some humans below. He shouts: "Alien assholes! Up yours!", then explodes and destroys the alien ship, helpfully showing the rest of the earth forces where the alien weak spot is. You can't get more botchy fixated than that?

Mark Simpson gives a different light on the summer blockbuster, *Independence Day*, writing in the October issue of *Attitude*.

Grouch graft

1. GROUCHO Marxism, the theory of comic revolution is much more than a blue print for class struggle. Like a red light in a window, it illuminates humanity's inevita-

ble destiny, the declassé society. G-Marxism is the theory of permanent revelry. 2. The example of the Marx Brothers themselves shows the unity of Marxist theory and practice (for instance, when Groucho insults somebody while Harpo picks his pocket). Moreover, Marxism is dialectical (isn't Chico the classic dialect comedian?). Comedians who fail to synthesize theory and practice

(to say nothing of those who fail to sin at all) are un-Marxist. 3. Because G-Marxism is practical, its achievements can never be reduced to mere humor, entertainment, or even "art". (The aesthetes, after all, are less interested in the appreciation of art than in art that appreciates.) After a genuine Marxist sees a Marx Brothers movie, he tells himself: "If you think that was funny, take a look at your life!"

4. Contemporary G-Marxists must resolutely denounce the imitative, vulgar "Marxism" of the Three Stooges, Monty Python, and Bugs Bunny. Instead of vulgar Marxism, we must return to authentic Marxist vulgarity. Rectification is likewise in order for those deluded comrades who think that "the correct line" is what the cop makes them walk when he pulls them over. 5. Although not entirely lacking in glimmers of Marxist insight, socialist (sur)realism must be distinguished from G-Marxism. It is true that Salvador Dali once

gave Harpo a harp made out of barbed wire; however, there is no evidence that Harpo ever played it. 6. Above all, it is essential to renounce and revise all comedic sectarianisms such as that of the equine Trots. As is well-known, Groucho repeatedly proposed sex but opposed sects. For Groucho, then, there was a difference between being a Trot and being hot to trot. Further, the Trot slogan "wages for Horserwork" smacks of reform, not revelry. Trot efforts to sin a Day At The Races and Horsefeathers for their tendency must be indignantly rejected; in truth National Velvet is more their style.

Marxist twists to the Groucho Brothers. Discussed on the *Marxism* listserver by Michael Jovic.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713-4366; Jackie, The Guardian, 110 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Jo Swain

Soul of the paper

Jo Swain, who joined the editor's office at the Guardian seven years ago and worked as personal assistant to Peter Preston as Editor and Editor-in-Chief from 1992 onwards, has died on holiday in Venice. She was 49.

Peter Preston writes:

THERE are some exceptional people you will always remember, and some sudden deaths which inflict deep, sharp and shared sadness. Jo Swain was one of those exceptional people; and the sadness throughout the Guardian and Observer yesterday was deep and shared.

She came to us as her tenth PA or secretarial job (covering everything from shoes to road freight). Newspapers were different then, no one could quite tell how she would take to the deadline frenzy and intense pressure at the heart of a daily newspaper. But she was a natural: fast, dynamic, utterly resourceful, clearly relishing the teamwork that makes a paper go round.

She worked first with David McKie then moved naturally, inevitably, to work with me. It was not, for either of us, just another job. The paper had become part of her life. She was there at all hours, sometimes far into the night, because she felt part of it. When an IRA bomb wrecked our printworks earlier this year, I shall always remember how Jo suddenly arrived back in the office and, through a nightmare evening, anchored and co-ordinated the triumphant effort to get a paper out, somehow.

In the spring of 1995 she was told she had cancer. She fought it uncompromisingly and with resolution, resisting all entreaties to make her rest more than she felt absolutely necessary.

This summer she chose temporarily to come to work with David McKie again on the opinion pages of the Observer, and then to stay there as personal assistant to Rob McCrum, its new literary editor. She loved the buzz of a paper. It was the last thing, grey with exhaustion but with vigour in determination, she would relish.

Jo loved Italy, and David McKie and his wife had taken her to Venice — a city she had never visited. She had had two perfect days and had death, from a heart complication, very close. It means she won't be there for the return match in Italy my wife and I had fixed for November. It means she won't be able to thank as she wished, her special friends: among them, Caroline Marland, our managing director. But she was herself special; and we shall, with her brother and her close circle of friends, always think of her that way.

Death Notices

FISHER, Ethel M.B.E. B.A., daughter of the late John and Maude Fisher, Burslem, Staffs, sister of the late Sydney Fisher, Trade Unionist, Youth Leader, helper and guide to Florence Lawrence, actress, born 22nd, Elaine Lavina (Waring) Home, aged 71, General Services, 11, St. Paul's, 2, 20th October 50; Donations Council & Care, 16 Bonny Street, W91 6PL, Bury, Reg. On September 22nd, aged 92, peacefully, aged 94 years, of Chichester, beloved husband of Joan, father of Debra and Gareth, Services, Winesap, 11, St. Paul's, 2, 20th October 50; Memorial Service, Knowl Church, Chichester at 2pm. All inquiries to 01243 726008.

YORKICK, Paul Robert, on 21st September 1996, beloved husband of Carol, adored and treasured son, brother, nephew and uncle of a wonderful person, who will be missed by all. Aged 56. Funeral Service, Friday 27th of September 3pm, 11.30am, St. Andrew's, 11, St. Paul's, 2, 20th October 50; Memorial Service, Knowl Church, Chichester at 2pm. All inquiries to 01243 726008.

In Memoriam

YORKICK LAWRENCE. The fourth year since your death, today we celebrate your life with champagne and friends in England and France. Love, Alan, Anne, Wendy. Write to place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4367. Fax 0171 713 4328.



Bums away... Attitude

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Jo Swain
Soul
of the
paper

BT spends £1.1bn to buy French connection

Nicholas Bamister
Technology Editor

BRITISH Telecom is to complete the last key part of its European strategy by investing more than £1.1 billion in a fledgling French telecommunication venture effectively controlled by the French conglomerate Compagnie Générale des Eaux. The move, announced yesterday, signals the end of BT's long search for the French partner it needed to give it a pan-European presence when the main continental markets are opened to full competition in 15 months' time. BT has already established joint ventures in Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Sweden. All are or will be seeking licences to challenge the incumbent monopolies. BT chairman Sir Iain Vallance said: "This agreement positions BT as the only telecommunications company capable of a pan-European assault on the market." However, analysts said that BT had chosen an expensive way into the French market. It is getting a 25 per cent stake in Cegetel in return for injecting £1.1 billion cash and its BT France business. CGE, whose main contribution to the new venture will be its controlling stake in SFR, France's number-two mobile phone operator, will end up with a 50 per cent stake and the top two jobs. Sir Peter Bonfield, who took over as chief executive at the beginning of the year, said BT would be the lead technical operator. He expected Cegetel to capture

about 15 per cent of the French market within 10 years. Cegetel's other shareholders would be Mannesmann, the German engineering and electronics group which owns one of Germany's top three mobile phone operators, and SBC, the US regional phone group formerly known as South Western Bell. The Cegetel deal is not expected to be finalised for several months because of the complexity in establishing the exact contributions of each of the shareholders and in simplifying the ownership of SFR. Albrecht Mockett, managing director of BT's global business, said Alcatel Alsthom, the French electronics group, would sell its 20 per cent stake in SFR, while Vodafone, one of Britain's leading mobile phone operators, would increase its stake from 16.5 to about 20 per cent. Philippe Germond, SFR's managing director, said he had little doubt that Cegetel would get a licence as a long-distance operator because the French government had indicated willingness to issue them to companies which with the necessary financial strength. He and Sir Peter were confident that Cegetel would succeed in the bidding for the rights to use the national fibre-optic network owned by SNCF, France's state-owned railway. Sir Peter said that Cegetel would initially concentrate on expanding its mobile business and absorbing BT France, which was largely involved with data transmission. When it had secured the necessary licences, it would then move into the business market, offering a range of services including those of Concert, the BT/MCI joint venture catering for multinational companies' telecom needs. The last phase, which could be some years away, would take Cegetel into the top end of the residential market in France.

BT's stakes abroad

Germany: Viag Intercom — 27.5pc
France: Cegetel — 25pc
Italy: Alacom — 35pc
Netherlands: Telefort — 23.3pc
Spain: BT Telecomunicaciones — 50pc
Sweden: Telenorvia — 33.5pc

Regulator says superhighway access service hits rival traffic

BRITISH Telecom has been told to remove discriminatory elements from its new, high-capacity phone service and reduce its cost within the next few days or face regulatory action, writes Nicholas Bamister. Don Cruickshank, the telecom regulator, said yesterday that high-capacity integrated services digital networks (ISDN) were the first step on the road to the information superhighway for many small businesses, schools and individuals. He had hoped BT would use a restructuring of its ISDN tariffs to kick-start more widespread use of

ISDN. Instead, the group had increased prices in a way that was "likely to have anti-competitive effects on customers and competitors alike". A BT spokesman said that some of the most powerful unions will be upping their demands from £4.26 an hour to £4.41. The unions, including Unison and the NUM, have proposed a formula based on official average earnings. The £4.26 figure was based on 1995 data, which yesterday were updated. A minimum wage at this level would affect more than 4 million workers, or 20 per cent of the labour force. The TUC has not yet formally

Clarke urges action against dirty money

Richard Thomas
Economic Correspondent

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, yesterday called for a worldwide campaign against money-laundering after the release of a report pointing at Britain's tough legal and regulatory regime as a role model for other nations. Mr Clarke warned Commonwealth finance ministers meeting in Bermuda that increasing cross-border cash flows posed a threat to all member countries. "International criminals seeking a safe harbour for their criminal proceeds are no respecters of international borders," he said. "They will always locate the weakest links in the anti-money laundering chain. This is a concern that can only be addressed on an international basis." The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) — set up by Western nations to promote action against financial crime — said recent measures taken by Britain to reduce the num-

ber of hiding places for money raised through criminal activity had set a new world standard. "A UK system for anti-laundering is an impressive and comprehensive one," the paper said. FATF pointed in particular to a legal requirement on UK financial institutions to report suspicious transactions. Mr Clarke urged the finance ministers to tighten controls on banking systems and introduce tough penalties. "Countries which have not yet put the necessary measures in place will find themselves attracting the wrong sort of business, not only from fraudsters and crooks, but also from criminals that properly regulated centres have turned away." Ahead of the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington next week, Mr Clarke called on the multinational institutions to lead the fight against the financial arm of organised crime. He also argued for the establishment of regional watchdogs to track dirty money.



Facing the music... Stephen Gee (left), My Kinda Town's finance director, and Peter Webber, managing director of the restaurant group, blamed a 21 per cent fall in profits in France for static half-year profits of £3.2 million. PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Unions up minimum-wage claim

Sarah Ryle

OPPPOSITION to a national minimum wage intensified yesterday after it became clear that some of the most powerful unions will be upping their demands from £4.26 an hour to £4.41. The unions, including Unison and the NUM, have proposed a formula based on official average earnings. The £4.26 figure was based on 1995 data, which yesterday were updated. A minimum wage at this level would affect more than 4 million workers, or 20 per cent of the labour force. The TUC has not yet formally

adopted a specific wage floor and some other unions have suggested a lower rate, of up to £4. A spokeswoman for the TUC said last night: "The £4.26 proposal from Unison and the NUM was passed at Congress and as it is a formula based on earnings levels, it would rise in line with the new wage figures." Any attempts by the unions to win a commitment for a specific level from the Labour Party at next week's conference are likely to be quashed. With the leadership keenly aware of industry's resistance to a statutory basic wage. Reacting to the new £4.41 level, the Institute of Direc-

tors said: "The higher the level, the worse the impact on jobs. A minimum wage would hurt the very people it is supposed to help." A minimum wage study published yesterday by the independent Centre for Economic Performance criticised the way the unions arrived at the higher level, arguing that the new £4.41 was "peculiar" and excessive. The author of the report, David Metcalf, argued that £4.41 would affect 20 per cent of the workforce, which was out of line with levels set by other countries. He said Britain could lift 10 per cent of the labour force, a bigger proportion than in

leading competitor nations like the US, out of poverty with a minimum wage of £3.50. Official earnings figures published yesterday showed women to be more likely than men to be badly paid. While average weekly earnings for all adults in full-time work were £382 in April (a 4.2 per cent increase on a year ago), women earned £283 per week. Excluding overtime, hourly earnings rose to £2.72 with men's hourly pay at £2.39 and women's at £2.50. The survey showed that top-paid men earn £1,733 and top-paid women £1,500, while the best paid women are doctors and earn £708 a week.

Hotline to brand VAT-shy cowboys

CELIA WESTON on a Customs trap for the construction industry tax cheats

DISGRUNTLED customers of cowboy builders were yesterday given a new way to wreak revenge through a Customs and Excise telephone hotline set up to catch VAT cheats in the construction industry. Rival legitimate builders and the public are expected to join the trend to shop cheats under a two-year pilot scheme supported by the 4,000-strong Building Employers Confederation, the Federation of Master Builders and industry trade associations.

The initiative follows a move in August by the Inland Revenue and Contributions Agency, which deals with national insurance, to clamp down on tax. NI payments and the self-employed status of many building contractors. Ian Deslandes, director general of the BEC, said: "There's a very marked overlap between companies evading tax and companies doing very shoddy work to the detriment of customers. People who cheat on tax cheat everybody. Every

recruited inspectors. Penalties range from payment of back tax to imprisonment. Mr Deslandes said BEC members had long complained about rogue builders gaining a competitive advantage by fiddling turnover figures to avoid reaching the £47,000 VAT registration threshold, or undercutting tax-compliant companies. "The public too often opts for the lowest possible price," he said. Lis Woods, Customs' head of compliance, said the initiative was part of her department's

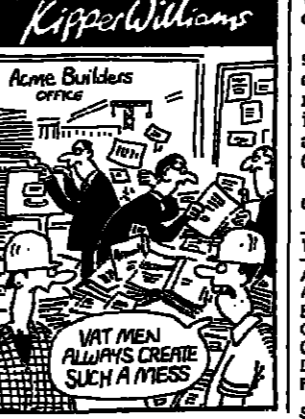
project to tackle the shadow economy. VAT evasion in construction accounted for an estimated 25 per cent of all under-declarations. Arrangements for the exchange of information with the Inland Revenue, the Contributions Agency and the Environment Department had already been made. "It's virtually impossible for any business to operate successfully without coming into contact with one of them," said Ms Woods. The hotline numbers are 0500 550 400 and 0500 550 450.

The victim

MRS Z, the widow of a builder, needed repair work done under her insurance policy, after a chip pan fire gutted her kitchen and bedroom. The insurance company insisted she use the builder who tendered the lowest estimate. That builder, who confided to Mrs Z that "VAT was only for mugs", did work which was a disaster. Mrs Z was so incensed she gave Customs his name, and that of two workmen, the registration number of a vehicle and details of other jobs he had done.

The rival

MRS X, a small builder, submitted a £15,000, plus £2,025 VAT, tender for work to replace some old outbuildings with a block of garages, which he estimated would take six weeks. He later discovered the job had gone to a builder who had quoted £16,000 cash. He believed that no one-man band could do the job and, on passing the site, noted vehicle registration numbers and trading names. He passed the information to Customs.



TOURIST RATES — BANK BILLS

Australia 1.91	France 7.7450	Italy 2.316	Singapore 2.15
Austria 16.14	Germany 2.2650	Mexico 0.5455	South Africa 6.65
Belgium 47.22	Greece 364.75	Netherlands 2.5775	Spain 192.75
Canada 2.0825	Hong Kong 11.76	New Zealand 2.1825	Sweden 10.16
Cyprus 0.6990	India 56.77	Norway 9.8450	Switzerland 1.8725
Denmark 8.8575	Ireland 0.9475	Portugal 234.90	Turkey 136.818
Finland 7.0378	Israel 4.96	Saudi Arabia 5.5225	USA 1.5250

Notebook

Fund chiefs on perilous ground



Edited by Mark Milner

IF THE Labour Party hoped for unalloyed support from Britain's biggest shareholders for its proposals to improve corporate governance, yesterday's discussion paper from the National Association of Pension Funds will have put it straight. Indeed, the NAPF's director-general, Dr Ann Robinson, will deliver the message in person when she addresses a Labour conference fringe meeting next week. As in a number of areas, Labour's proposals for improving corporate governance are still far from specific. But the NAPF appeared to set the tone of future discussion yesterday by saying it would oppose the introduction of legislation (unless it was to "clean up" the Companies Act) and would not favour the introduction of a capital tax designed to encourage longer term investment. It also set its face against compulsory voting at annual meetings, the idea of "stakeholder" companies, rejected suggestion that shareholders force companies to pay excessive dividends at the expense of research and development and long term capital projects. It also expressed "grave reservations" about shareholders being given the right to vote on individual directors' pay packages. The NAPF, whose members speak for one in three of all shares, argued that change can take place within established structures. To back that up, the NAPF wants companies to force all directors to stand for re-election regularly, to limit service contracts to one year and to restrict the level of golden handshakes by stopping payments once directors find new jobs. Labour has correctly scented that aspects of corporate governance, particularly those relating to "fat cat" salaries, are probably electorally popular. It now has to ensure it keeps the big shareholders "on side". The NAPF will need to tread carefully too, if it wants to avoid anything more than the tiding up of existing law. It would not be wise to give the impression that its agenda is all that counts.

The speed with which negotiations were concluded between the British company and Compagnie Générale des Eaux, which was also looking at a rival arrangement with AT&T Unisource, indicates the pressures on BT to get an agreement. In immediate terms, however, all that deal amounts to is that BT is paying £1.1 billion for an indirect stake in France's second mobile phone group. It will have boardroom representation but neither management nor shareholder control of the new venture. On the other side of the equation, BT will be in a position (though scarcely pole position) to take advantage of the opening of the French telecommunications market in 1998. The French deal will also enhance its credibility as a pan-European company. The big unknown is whether the venture will get the use of the national communications network owned by SNCF, the state-owned French railways. Bids are in and BT is keeping its fingers crossed. They should be crossed very tightly. Failure to do a deal with SNCF could leave the new venture with an inadequate backbone network and facing the costly prospect of creating one by leasing lines, quite probably from its main competitors. BT needed to be in France. It has got there. But it has only been there for a few days. Some expense while its future there will depend heavily on the management skills of others.

Marked failure

EARLIER this week the banking industry's working party on monetary union reckoned that the City could survive and indeed continue to prosper, whether or not Britain signed up for the single currency. That remains to be seen but the Square Mile certainly does seem to be winning the battle of the financial centres. The latest evidence comes from the Frankfurt-based state central bank of Hesse. Yesterday it reported that the number of bank headquarters, and bank representative offices in Frankfurt fell last year. Not for the first time the bank was critical of the Frankfurt market for its timidity in responding to change in the industry. It has long wrangled that London's derivatives market, Liffe, for example, beat Frankfurt's DTFB to the punch in developing derivative contracts in German debt. Frankfurt is trying to repair some of the damage through a Centre for Financial Studies, headed by former Bundesbank president Karl Otto Pöhl. It will have to work out how to make some of Germany's premier banking names have already voted with their feet and opted to shift more of their activities to London. There is more, it would appear, to running a successful banking centre than a strong currency.

BT's number

BRITISH Telecom looks to be paying a steep price to achieve its long held aim of establishing a foothold in the French market. No doubt the company will have breathed a sigh of relief that it has finally got a deal, any deal almost. It has, after all, endured abortive negotiations with rivals, and at times official obstruction.

Invesco in mutual talks with US Aim

Ian King

INVESCO, the independent fund management group, said yesterday that it was in talks with Aim Management, one of America's biggest mutual funds, about a possible "business combination". But the UK fund manager, which controls almost £60 billion of funds, said no definitive agreement had been reached, adding that a further announcement would be made "in due course". The news follows intense speculation that Invesco, one of the biggest independent names in fund management, is seeking to buy Aim for about \$1.8 billion (£1.2 billion). Invesco has made clear its desire to complete a significant acquisition for some time, and last month the company's chairman, Charles Brady, said it would spend up to £1 billion. The company has already been linked with a bid for ESN, the manager of the electricity supply industry pension funds, which was later bought by Foreign and Colonial. City analysts welcomed the news, pointing to the complementary nature of the two businesses. In particular, Invesco's American business is largely institutional, while Aim enjoys a substantial presence in the retail market. However, sources close to Invesco said last night that talks were still at an early stage and indicated that any deal likely to be a merger rather than a takeover.

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Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

ALEX BRUMMER in Washington on the complex manoeuvrings to secure vital funding

IMF to cut poor nations' debt

MICHEL Camdessus, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, declared yesterday that the debt reduction plan for the world's poorest nations was now a "done deal" despite the failure of G7 countries to agree on sales of IMF gold reserves.

The IMF intends to make good on its share of the \$7.7 billion (€5 billion) loan plan by seeking bilateral contributions from its membership and by dipping into the reserves of its own loan facility for the poorest countries.

This compromise, which should secure funding for the debt reduction plan until 1999, is intended to avert a clash at tomorrow's G7 meeting in Washington between Germany — which opposed the gold sale — and the US, Britain and other countries in favour.

The sale of 100 per cent of the IMF's gold reserves was first proposed by the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke and would have been used to create a trust fund both for the reduction of multilateral debt of the world's poorest countries, as well as secure the long-term financing of the IMF's loan window for the poor, known as the

Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility.

Without gold sales, or another form of finance, this facility will have insufficient funds to meet its obligations in the period 2000 to 2004. After that, the IMF believes it will be self-financing.

Speaking at a press conference here yesterday, the US treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, expressed satisfaction that the multilateral debt reduction plan would go ahead but made it clear that the US would not be prepared to provide bilateral assistance until such time as gold sales had been approved.

Finance ministers, who are descending on Washington for the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, are determined that the debt plan be up and running this autumn.

The results from a study set up by the World Bank president, James Wolfensohn, in the summer of 1995 in an effort to defuse one of the issues which has long divided the IMF and World Bank from the wider development lobby.

Under the plan, funds used by poor nations for debt repayment to the IMF, World Bank and bilateral creditors, would

be made available for education, health care and poverty relief.

In a statement issued here last night, Oxfam International applauded the IMF's decision to press ahead without gold sales, arguing that the commitments made by the Bank and Fund were "important advances".

However, Oxfam expressed frustration that earlier hopes that the initiative would include an agreement by the Paris Club of official creditors to reduce debt by 90 per cent — against the 67 per cent currently available — had failed to win support.

In addition to launching the debt initiative, the IMF also intends to use this year's annual general meetings to build industrial country support for a huge increase in its share capital, presently standing at \$193 billion. Mr Camdessus said yesterday that a doubling of the share capital was required to \$386 billion. However, he thought it more likely that the major shareholders would approve an increase of between 50 and 75 per cent of the current quotas — which would just be sufficient to keep pace with the increased size of the global economy.

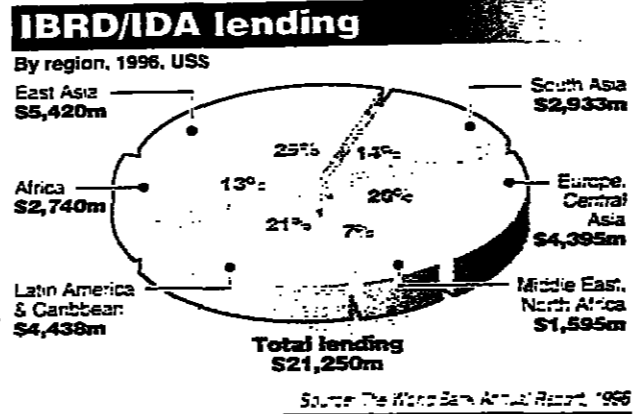
Bank takes more money from the Third World than it gives out

THE World Bank's new lending reached a record \$19 billion (£12 billion) in the last financial year, according to the organisation's annual report, released yesterday.

Despite this robust performance, analysis of the report shows that after interest and other repayments by developing country borrowers, the bank is taking in more funds from Third World countries than it lends.

The bank argues that these net transfers of around \$1.7 billion in the 1995-96 financial year are inevitable in its favour as countries which no longer need World Bank lending pay back old loans.

To keep transfers positive would require "geometrical increases" in new loans every year. The negative net



transfers are seen by critics as an alternative way of analysing the bank's overall role in development.

The report shows that the bank has made progress in cutting administrative costs, a development which will be pleasing to Western shareholders.

In the past year some 3.6 per cent was shaved off costs, bringing the administrative budget down to \$1.2 billion. Overall the Bank generated a profit of \$1.2 billion — surpluses which are increasingly used by

Sarah Whitbloom

A MAVERICK fund manager, whose apparent overvaluation of rich people's portfolios has triggered legal action against US investment bank Morgan Stanley, was yesterday thrown out of the City.

The news is a further blow to the image of the investment industry and its controls, and comes in the wake of the multi-million pound Morgan Grenfell fund management debacle in which Peter Young is alleged, among other matters, to have overvalued funds.

Geoffrey de Sibert, whose whereabouts are unknown, was banned by Imro, the industry watchdog, in a signal that such activities will not be tolerated. It found he had not exercised the integrity required of a registered individual because of his "deliberate" overvaluation of an offshore fund he managed — of which Morgan Stanley Bank Luxembourg was administrator and custodian.

InterCapital Asset Management (ICAM), the company through which he managed funds, went into liquidation in April 1995 with millions owing to investors.

Morgan Stanley, led by Sir David Walker — the former chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, the City's chief watchdog — denies any impropriety, despite its relationship with Mr de Sibert and his fund.

In addition to its Luxembourg involvement, Morgan Stanley's London operation lent money to high net worth individuals and vehicles controlled by them to invest in ICAM's Global fund.

But the institution insists it had no reason to believe the valuations were incorrect and plans a vigorous defence against a £30 million legal action being brought by investors in Luxembourg, due to be heard in November next.

They claim they would not have put cash in, had it not been for Morgan Stanley's involvement.

It is understood there were about 25 investors from the US, the Channel Islands and France in the Cayman-based fund — which was valued at about \$80 million at its peak. There were no UK investors since it was an unregulated investment and could not be marketed here. There can therefore be no claims on the City's investors' compensation scheme. But Mr de Sibert was registered by Imro and so fell under UK jurisdiction.

Each investor — many of whom were personal contacts and friends of Mr de Sibert — had to put in a minimum of \$200,000, although the average investment was \$3 million.

According to Imro, Mr de Sibert — a former director of Kleinwort Benson — overvalued the fund by up to 25 per cent of its value from an April 1994 and March 1995. This caused some investors to be disadvantaged but others, who led during the period of inflated valuation, benefited from Mr de Sibert's creative calculations. In addition, Imro charged Mr de Sibert with carrying out speculative foreign exchange dealing on behalf of the fund — in clear breach of its articles of association.

Also yesterday, Imro fined the City-based Newton Investment Management £85,000 for breaking rules relating to client money accounts. Newton, which backed down from demanding a full tribunal hearing, agreed to three charges. The most serious relates to its failure to prevent client accounts going overdrawn — a breach of Imro regulations which are aimed at preventing a firm "using money belonging to one customer to satisfy other customers' liabilities".

Newton reimbursed \$63,247 of interest incurred by customers on their overdrafts and was ordered to pay £24,000 in costs.

Guinness offers a new strategy to spirit world

Pauline Springett on recovery recipe that mixes whisky, gin and gambling

THE alcoholic drinks industry, rightly or wrongly, enjoys a glossy image. Until recently, Guinness lived up to this by producing sparkling growth. The company's performance of late has been much duller, however, particularly in the spirits division.

Strong growth is more difficult for Guinness because its existing territories of the UK and western Europe are mature markets. Fresh brands can always be launched, but in the grand scheme of things they add little to the bottom line initially and take years really to take root.

Selling to more overseas markets is also clearly an option for the longer term, but this can be a hit-and-miss affair, likely to produce slow growth and exposes the company to the vagaries of territories with which it may be unfamiliar.

though he declined to confirm what they had been, he said, adding that the moves which had been considered would have "destroyed substantial chunks" of shareholder value.

Acquisitions are not being ruled out, but there is little on there at the price and size to tempt Guinness. After all, as Mr Greener conceded, several previous purchases have since proved rather expensive. He is anxious not to make the same mistakes again.

One such disappointment is the Spanish operation, Cruz-

campo. This suffered another six months, with sales down 4 per cent. The main reason for this was further decline in the Spanish economy. Guinness can scarcely be blamed for that, and it is doing its utmost to get the best out of Cruzcampo, having streamlined its operations. As Mr Greener said, it would not be sensible to sell Cruzcampo at the bottom of the market.

Guinness spends about £500 million on marketing each year — an indication of how important brands are to the company. Of course, the company is also planning to develop new products and to improve its systems and infrastructure. But the key is brand strength.

How Guinness handles its spirits brands will be particularly crucial because it is this side of the business, not brewing, which has been under the most pressure. Total sales of the spirits division rose by a mere 1 per cent, and trading profit fell by £2 million to £255 million.

Guinness is finding the UK spirits market distinctly tough and has decided to hit back. Its key brands are Bell's whisky and Gordon's gin. The main rivals are drinks the customer believes are acceptable substitutes and which are cheaper. Guinness has been countering this with price cuts and offers. That is changing.

Guinness increased its spirits prices in the UK by about 4 per cent earlier this year. The company is also cutting down on its promotions. Sales of Gordon's and Bell's have dipped as a result but the company is determined not to buckle, even in the run-up to Christmas, "even if that costs us again in terms of volume and share", Mr Greener said.



Head man... Chairman Tony Geener hopes for organic growth PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Guinness	
Stock market value	£8.6bn
Share price	448.5 p
Workforce	21,000
Interest cover	7.2
5 YEARLY	% change
Sales	2,048m +0.5
Pre-tax profit	357m +5
Earnings/share	12.4p +7
Dividend/share	4.55p +8.3
Six months 1996	
Sales	%
Spirits	49
Brewing	53
Trading profits	
£ million	
Spirits	255
Brewing	277

Robert Fleming clears out management of Hong Kong joint venture

MERCHANT bank Robert Fleming has cleared out the top management of its scandal-hit Hong Kong joint venture and appointed a trouble-shooter to supervise all activities in the colony and mainland China. A new

supervisory board will meet quarterly, review all Jardine Fleming activities and report back to the two shareholders, Fleming and the trading corporation Jardine Matheson.

Jardine Fleming chairman Alan Smith is retiring early, after 24 years with the company, also taking early retirement is Robert

Thomas, who had been chief executive of Jardine Fleming Investment Management and Jardine Fleming Asset Management, two companies savaged by regulators in Britain and Hong Kong last month after irregularities came to light.

Robert Fleming group chief executive John Manser warned: "I would

hate to lead anyone to believe that this business is never going to have any problems in future."

No control system could prevent rogue trading or other misfeasance, he said, but it could detect problems early. There were, he added, "no guarantees in this business".

Last month it emerged

that a Jardine Fleming fund manager in Hong Kong, Colin Armstrong, had been booking dud trades to clients' accounts and successful trades to his own. In March, four brokers working for Jardine Fleming's Hong Kong securities arm had been sacked for this sort of "rat trading".

Hong Kong regulators ex-

pelled Mr Armstrong from its register and ordered Jardine Fleming to pay £12.3 million compensation to affected clients. Meanwhile, British regulators fined Jardine Fleming £400,000 because its Hong Kong operation had been paying commissions on some business contrary to agreements with clients.

Lloyd's rebels regroup

REBEL Lloyd's of London Names launched an action group to carry on the fight against paying for losses on the insurance market. The United Names Organisation (UNO) hopes 1,000 Names who have not accepted a £3.2 billion settlement offer will join. They will be asked to pay a subscription of £4,500 over three years towards an estimated \$4.5 million for legal costs, said co-chair David Harris. — *Pauline Springett*

Buyout boom tails off

THE management buyout boom has run out of steam, with buyouts held back by sellers' excessive expectations, according to accountants KPMG. The last quarter's deals were the lowest since the beginning of last year, falling from from £1.1 billion in the previous three months to £820 million. — *Roger Coote*



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£90,000	15 yrs	35p	

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Racing

Candle glows in Cesarewitch trial

CANDLE SMILE has been the star of the Cesarewitch odds cut from 11-1 to 10-1 after staying on strongly to land the Roofs United Handicap at Goodwood yesterday.

John Reid made virtually all the running over the two mile trip on the Michael Stoute-trained colt who powered in by six lengths, but did not incur a penalty for the Newmarket stamina test on October 17 in which he has set 10lb.

Joe Mercer, racing manager to owner Maktaum Al Maktaum, commented: "All he does is stay. But he's improving all the time, and we're definitely going for the Cesarewitch. The result shows what tremendous form Michael's horses are in - he's had nine winners in his last fortnight."

Don Bosio, under Richard Quinn, had earlier bolted home in the J.S. Humfriers

Handicap to initiate a double for the stable.

Next Tuesday is a big day for Stoute, of course, when Dazzle, favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, defends her unbeaten record in the Chadwell Stud Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket for which 12 were declared at yesterday's forfeit stage.

Dazzle looked in a class of her own when searching to a five lengths victory in the Cherry Hinton Stakes in July - her latest run.

Criquette Head sends over Pas de Reponse from France to take top honours, while the unbeaten Italian filly Elmby is also expected to make the trip.

Lord Carnarvon has paid £12,000 to reinstate Arethusa who was originally entered, but who was pointed in mid-summer. Her subsequent second in the Lowther Stakes, and victory at Kempton, persuaded his Lordship that she might have made a mistake.

Back at Goodwood, Tagula



Classic look... Dazzle bids to strengthen her 1,000 Guineas claims in the Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket next Tuesday

Diamond Dance can get Dettori off to a quick start at Haydock

FRANKIE DETTORI, who resumes riding at Haydock this afternoon after his St Leger whip suspension, can be quick off the mark with Diamond Dance (2.00), writes Chris Hawkins.

This filly, related to the useful Storm Canyon, shows no signs of her debut at Sandown recently when running on from the rear to be sixth to Ruwy. That was over a mile and she should be suited by an extra two furlongs here.

Dominelle (2.30) looks worth an interest in the competitive Stanley Credit Handicap. She was beaten a short-head by Merrie Le Bow in a 24 runner affair at Nottingham last time and can go one better from a favourable draw.

Mellottie retired after game victory

MELLOTTIE brought down the curtain on a memorable career with a last-gasp triumph at Pontefract yesterday.

Mary Reveley, the gelding's trainer, was not present to witness the popular success but had promised that the 11-year-old would be retired immediately if he won.

He looked to face a tough task in the Wakefield Eborcup Handicap and was sent off a 12-1 chance, but Mellottie demonstrated his customary resolve to produce a spirited late surge to lead close home and defeat Skillington by a neck.

Mellottie was the first and only foal of Lottie Lehmann, the first winner for Mrs Reveley. He progressed from bumpers and hurdle races to show himself to be a useful performer on the flat.

He notched 16 victories on the flat, three in bumpers and one over hurdles, scooping almost £250,000 in prize money.

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Haydock card with guide to the form

2.00 Diamond Dance	3.30 High Prevalent
2.00 DOMINELLE (map)	4.00 Dayville
3.00 MOON OF RIBBON	4.30 WOODCOCK

Draws No handicaps. Going Good to Firm. 5 Decided. Handicaps. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote steps since last start unless otherwise stated.

2.00 STANLEY CREDIT HANDICAP MAIDEN STAKES 2YO fm 2m 10yd CS:465

101	48	BRAYLINGTON (13) Lady Heron 9-0	...	...
102	48	JIMBOE (13) Lady Heron 9-0	...	...
103	48	MAGIC RING (13) Mrs Jervis 9-0	...	...
104	5-40	RAISE A PENCIL (28) Jinks 9-0	...	...
105	5-40	DIAMOND DANCE (2) Jinks 9-0	...	...
106	5-40	SOLDIER BLADE (15) Paces 9-0	...	...
107	5-40	TRITON (13) Jinks 9-0	...	...
108	5-40	ROBERTO (17) Jinks 9-0	...	...
109	5-40	DUNSTON GARDEN (13) Paces 9-0	...	...
110	5-40	SHIRAZ (13) Jinks 9-0	...	...
111	5-40	GRAND SPLENDOR (13) Lady Heron 9-0	...	...
112	5-40	IBBY DANDEL (13) Paces 9-0	...	...
113	5-40	MAJESTY A (13) Paces 9-0	...	...
114	5-40	SHIRAZ (13) Paces 9-0	...	...
115	5-40	SOLITAIRE (13) Paces 9-0	...	...
116	5-40	SHIRAZ (13) Paces 9-0	...	...

3.30 STANLEY CREDIT HANDICAP MAIDEN STAKES 2YO fm 2m 10yd CS:465

201	40	00000 SADDLEHORN (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
202	40	00000 STANDWOOD (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
203	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
204	40	00000 HARVEST (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
205	40	00000 WYFFIN (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
206	40	00000 PRIMA BELLA (17) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
207	40	13-16	00000 PINEAPPLE (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0
208	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
209	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
210	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
211	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
212	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
213	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
214	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
215	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
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232	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
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237	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
238	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
239	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	
240	40	00000 BARKING (13) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	

Folkestone

Draws High members best in sports. Good to Firm. 5 Decided. Handicaps. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote steps since last start unless otherwise stated.

1.50 BURYTON DEVELOPMENTS PREMIER STE MAIDEN FILLIES 2YO fm 11 1/2 CS:465

1	00-00	00000 SWEET ALLIANCE (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
2	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
3	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
4	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
5	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
6	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
7	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
8	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
9	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
10	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...

2.50 BURYTON DEVELOPMENTS PREMIER STE MAIDEN FILLIES 2YO fm 11 1/2 CS:465

1	00-00	00000 SWEET ALLIANCE (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
2	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
3	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
4	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
5	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
6	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
7	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
8	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
9	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
10	00-00	00000 CLARICE CAPPELLO (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...

Redcar

Draws High members best in sports. Good to Firm. 5 Decided. Handicaps. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote steps since last start unless otherwise stated.

2.10 PRINCE

2.10 PRINCE	3.40 Blackthorn
2.40 Thatched	4.10 Kid Coy
3.10 Reinhardt	4.40 Plan For Profit

2.10 PRINCE

1	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
2	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
3	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
4	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
5	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
6	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
7	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
8	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
9	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
10	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...

Results

GOODWOOD

1	10	00000 GOLD ORIENT (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
2	10	00000 GOLD ORIENT (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
3	10	00000 GOLD ORIENT (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
4	10	00000 GOLD ORIENT (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
5	10	00000 GOLD ORIENT (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
6	10	00000 GOLD ORIENT (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
7	10	00000 GOLD ORIENT (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
8	10	00000 GOLD ORIENT (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
9	10	00000 GOLD ORIENT (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
10	10	00000 GOLD ORIENT (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...

POINTERACT

1	10	00000 BOWLING BOY (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
2	10	00000 BOWLING BOY (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
3	10	00000 BOWLING BOY (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
4	10	00000 BOWLING BOY (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
5	10	00000 BOWLING BOY (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
6	10	00000 BOWLING BOY (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
7	10	00000 BOWLING BOY (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
8	10	00000 BOWLING BOY (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
9	10	00000 BOWLING BOY (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
10	10	00000 BOWLING BOY (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...

A Derby trial may be added to Epsom's Spring meeting

A Derby trial may be added to Epsom's Spring meeting, April 23, which has been restored to the fixture list next year. The Derby meeting will be on Friday and Saturday with the Sunday fixture moving to August.

Blinkered for the first time - FOLKESTONE: 2.30 Senate Swings, HAYDOCK: 2.30 John's Lane, 3.30 Elite Hope, 4.00 Cherokee Flight, REDCAR: 3.10 Reinhardt, 4.40 Danka.

4.50 LEVY BOARD APPOINTMENT HANDICAP

Draws High members best in sports. Good to Firm. 5 Decided. Handicaps. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote steps since last start unless otherwise stated.

4.50 LEVY BOARD APPOINTMENT HANDICAP

1	00	00000 ALBERTA (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
2	00	00000 ALBERTA (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
3	00	00000 ALBERTA (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
4	00	00000 ALBERTA (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
5	00	00000 ALBERTA (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
6	00	00000 ALBERTA (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
7	00	00000 ALBERTA (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
8	00	00000 ALBERTA (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
9	00	00000 ALBERTA (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...
10	00	00000 ALBERTA (14) (2) Jinks 7-10-0	...	...

Rugby League

Referee has a broken nose for his trouble

THE aftermath of Sunday's fatal riot at the stadium here, the venue for tomorrow's one-off Test between Papua New Guinea and Great Britain, continues to dominate the news bulletins in PNG.

In a speech to parliament yesterday the deputy speaker Ben Okurro denied instigating the trouble, which started in the main stand. "It is true that I was in the grandstand," he said, "but I was totally unaware of the commotion and I realised there was trouble only when somebody's body, which was apparently thrown from somewhere near the entrance landed on my back."

Okurro had been accused by Dick Mune, the governor of the Southern Highlands, who declared Wednesday a day of mourning after four Murukus fans were killed. Mune claimed that several hundred Murukus fans were missing, possibly held by the Chimbu tribe who had supported the Kundawa Warriors in the cup final and subsequently blocked the road back to Mendi.

"It was everybody for himself in Lae and nobody knows who is missing," Mune said. "Now the people of Chimbu and Mr Okurro must pay for the deaths and the damage to property."

The Lions have been assured there will be no violence on that scale tomorrow, when the Murukus and Warriors fans are expected to stay in the hills. But a reminder of the explosive potential of any match in PNG came with yesterday's news that Tony Kim, the referee of Wednesday's tour opener in Mount Hagen, is considering retirement after being assaulted at the end of the game and sustaining a broken nose.

According to the national newspaper, the Spectator, the president of a local league club shouted, "Yupela we refuse to let you go wansat wainam!"

High members best in sports

Draws High members best in sports. Good to Firm. 5 Decided. Handicaps. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote steps since last start unless otherwise stated.

2.10 PRINCE

1	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0
2	00	00000 DANCING DREAM (28) Jinks 7-10-0
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Athletics

Sepeng at centre of South African race-rigging row

Julian Drew and David Beresford find evidence of administrative 'fixing' involving the country's top 800m runners

EVIDENCE has emerged that suggests the federation governing South African athletics has been trying to rig races involving some of the country's top runners. The Guardian has obtained a copy of a draft contract which Athletics South Africa (ASA) allegedly tried to persuade Hezekiel Sepeng, the Olympic 800 metres silver medalist, to sign. It includes undertakings that he would not break the national record except at meetings staged by an oil corporation, Engen.

The document was prepared for the signature of South Africa's athletics supremo Bernard Rose, the chief executive officer of ASA, as well as the athlete. Sepeng, who just missed out on gold in Atlanta, refused to sign the contract. But one of his main rivals, Marius van Heerden, the then South African 800m record holder, is believed to have signed a similar document.

The draft contract was allegedly presented to Sepeng by ASA in April, three months before the Centennial Olympics. The document states that Sepeng should not race against Van Heerden over 800m except at specified venues: the Old Mutual SA Track and Field Championships; the three Engen Grand Prix meetings in Pietersburg, Pretoria and Cape Town; and the Pepsi All Africa International meeting in Johannesburg.

It also declares that Sepeng will not attempt to break the 800m record (or he has in fact broken the record), then this agreement will be null and void and Hezekiel will repay to ASA any monies that have been paid to him in terms of this agreement.

"A piece of paper that is not signed by Hezekiel Sepeng has nothing to do with anything you are talking about," he said yesterday. "I could get into contention once or twice and, in the process, hopefully make about £50,000 and keep my player's card."

In fact he has done substantially better than that, making the cut in his first eight tournaments and then not only getting into contention in the ninth but going on to win the Spanish Open.

There have been seven top-20 finishes in the 16 events since and he is a strong contender for the Rookie of the Year award, being some £4,500 behind Scotland's Raymond Russell.

Harrington has, to a degree, emulated the late James Braid, who once claimed that he went to bed a short hiter and woke up a long one. As an amateur, Harrington got away with being relatively short because so many competitions were played in running conditions on links courses. But most professional golf is played on parkland courses, and the Irishman found himself outgunned.

But, rather than go the Nick Faldo route and completely reassemble his swing, Harrington claimed yesterday that he had not changed it at all. "It's all a matter of timing the ball," he said. "I do it differently now. I've got a draw rather than a fade and I've got 20-30 yards more length."

He used it to his advantage yesterday. In the first round of this event last year he thought he played well and yet he took 77. "I could hardly make the carry to the 18th fairway then," he said. "But today I flew the bunkers 355 yards out, which is a massive difference." The hole measured 518 yards; Harrington covered what was left with a seven-iron and holed from 40 feet for an eagle.

In the race of the rookies, Russell is not that far behind at two under, and this is the stage of the season where the tour's undercurrents start to flow strongly. For instance, the top 55 in the rankings get into the Volvo Masters, the big-money season-ender at Valderrama, and Miles Tunnicliffe for example, currently 63rd, will have that event in his sights after an opening 68.

For those further down the rankings this is a time of deep anxiety. Only the top 115 keep their players' cards, and good performances are desperately required given that there are only three more counting events, including this one.

Yesterday Michael Jonzon, who is 119th, and Michael Welch, 128th, will have been considerably cheered by their 68 and 69 respectively, knowing as they do that one decent cheque at this stage of the year may conceivably rescue an entire career.

Four members of Europe's beaten Solheim Cup side shook off their woes in the opening round of the German Open in Hamburg yesterday. Scotland's Dale Reid shot a five-under-par 68, with Lisa Hackney, Joanne Morley and Marie-Laure de Lorenza all on 69, behind the leader Maria Hjorth on 67.



Snooker

Ebdon takes full toll of O'Sullivan lapses

Clive Everton in Motherwell

PETER EBDON, the world No. 3, displayed consistency of the highest quality to beat Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-2 and reach the Regal Scottish Masters semi-finals at the Civic Centre here yesterday. O'Sullivan, a 5-1 winner when the pair met in the Sunbury Asian Classic semi-finals in Bangkok this month, led by a frame and 54-0, but Ebdon responded with a break of 55 and then created the opening to take the second frame with a snooker on the yellow.

"I should have won the second but I didn't nail him," said O'Sullivan. "Everything he did after that seemed to go right. We've played a lot of times but that's the best he's ever played against me."

O'Sullivan, when 13, beat Ebdon, then 18, in a pro-am, and Ebdon vowed, "You'll never beat me again." But when they became professionals O'Sullivan won their first six meetings.

In Ebdon's view his 16-14 world championship semi-final win last spring "wiped the slate clean", but yesterday's success was only his fourth over the 20-year-old O'Sullivan in 13 attempts.

O'Sullivan missed two routine blacks: one leading to Ebdon's winning 64 in the third, the other when 47 ahead in the fifth to give Ebdon the chance to snatch the frame with a 62 clearance to the pink. Ebdon also had decisive runs of 77 in the fourth and 71 in the sixth to lead 5-1, and a break of 92 in the last after O'Sullivan's 86 had accounted for the seventh.

"I won't let it bother me," said O'Sullivan. "I'm already looking forward to the next tournament."



Silver lining... on a dreadful day Pdraig Harrington shot a seven-under-par 65, a course record, in the European Open at the K Club near Dublin

Harrington warms the cockles

David Davies in Dublin sees an Irish rookie on a roll break the course record

BOLLOWING black clouds and driving rainstorms plagued the first round of the Smurfit European Open at the K Club. The rain intensified during the afternoon, slowing play to a crawl, and the leaders remained those who had been lucky enough to be only moderately wet in the morning.

Given the conditions, it was little surprise that the leaders were an Irishman and a Swede, respectively Pdraig Harrington and Niclas Fasth, both accustomed to extremes of weather. Harrington's seven-under-par 65 was a course record, beating by one shot the one set last year by Roger Chapman.

A year ago Harrington was at Royal Portcharwell helping his team-mates celebrate a famous victory over the Americans in the Walker Cup. In the intervening 12 months he has won over £233,000 and he lies 11th in the Volvo rankings. If this is something of a puzzle to those who saw him as only an average amateur, it is a complete mystery to the man himself.

At the start of his career as a professional golfer Harrington, a qualified accountant, made an appraisal of the job he was about to enter, drew up a business plan and set himself a first-year target. "I thought it would be nice," he said yesterday. "If I could get into contention once or twice and, in the process, hopefully make about £50,000 and keep my player's card."

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Cycling

Zülle rides the back-scratchers' backs

William Fotheringham in Avila

INTRIGUE and bike racing have always been close companions. Under-the-saddle deals, formal and informal, financial and merely mutual back-scratching, are part and parcel of daily life in a stage race. Should Alex Zülle of Switzerland win the Tour of Spain when it finishes in Madrid on Sunday, he will owe his victory as much to internal politics in cycling as to the strength in his 28-year-old legs.

Zülle starts today's final mountain stage to a whisky distillery near Segovia knowing he has to hold on to one man, his fellow Swiss Laurent Dufaux, who is some four minutes behind after winning yesterday's stage here. Dufaux is convinced that had Zülle not received considerable assistance from other teams on yesterday's stage through the Sierra de Gredos mountains, he himself would now be wearing the race leader's yellow jersey.

Zülle's ONCE team dominated the first two weeks of the Vuelta and, when Miguel Indurain pulled out a week ago with bronchitis, victory looked assured for the Swiss or his French team-mate Laurent Jalabert, who was unstoppable in last year's race and lay second until yesterday.

However, on Monday's Pyrenean stage the entire team except Zülle were hit by a stomach bug. Yesterday none was at his side when Dufaux attacked on the Puerto Seranillo, some 40 miles from the finish. But, bizarrely, a number of teams with no apparent interest in preventing Dufaux from winning seemed willing to make the pace behind to prevent him from gaining too much time.

"Sixty per cent of the riders in the race are mercenaries," expostulated Dufaux's manager Miguel Moreno as the race went out live on television. "You would have to be an idiot not to see what is happening. It is an alliance."

Among the riders he accused of helping Zülle was Tony Rominger, a fellow German-speaking Swiss — Dufaux is francophone — who gave Zülle help on Monday when his lungs gave out at the end of a Pyrenean stage. Although Rominger denied the allegation he was at Zülle's side for most of the final climb.

Another team named by Moreno was Euskadi, who are funded by a consortium of small businesses from the Basque country. Their manager went on television to explain that, although ONCE has a stake in his team, "this was not financial, it was like helping a sick friend."

Other squads, however, such as the American Motorola team, are out of advantage of ONCE's weakness and pay off old scores. The Italian Andrea Perini, who was one of the few riders to assist Dufaux yesterday, expressed great satisfaction at the discomfiture of Zülle and his team. Today the two-wheeled politics will continue over two climbs of the 6,000ft Navacerrada outside Madrid.

Indurain will not defend his world time-trial title on October 10.

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Sport in brief

Cricket

The former England fast bowler Harold Rhodes yesterday resigned from the Derbyshire committee after an investigation at the club's County Ground headquarters. A special emergency meeting was held after members handed in an eight-page petition requesting an inquiry into rumours that Rhodes's conduct towards the coach Les Stillman might result in the Australian's resignation.

Stillman, who has been with the county for only one season, helped guide Derbyshire to second place in the County Championship, their highest finish since they won the title 60 years ago.

Hockey

England's Kathryn Johnson, Tammy Miller and Jo Thompson, who played for Britain at the Atlanta Olympics, have joined the captain Jill Atkins in telling Maggie Souyave, the England coach, that they are no longer available for international selection, writes Pat Rowley.

Rugby League

Oldham Bears look certain to

Sailing

Chris Law's survival into the knock-out semi-final round of the World Championship of Match Racing at Dubrovnik depends on both his and Australian Peter Gilmour's results in the last two stages of the round-robin, writes Bob Fisher. Law, who must win his next two matches to progress while Gilmour loses his, lost to both Russell Coutts of New Zealand and to Gilmour yesterday in tricky, shifty winds and now has one less victory than Gilmour.

Billiards

The world No. 1 Mike Russell set a highest-break world record in beating India's Devendra Joshi in the quarter-finals of the world championship in Bombay, writes Clive Everton. The Englishman, who set the previous best of 713 during the British Open last February, had a run of 753 in his 2,391-621 victory over last year's runner-up.

Rowing

Searles split to go solo

Christopher Dodd

THE Searle brothers, Greg and Jonny, have broken their partnership. The 24-year-old Greg plans to take up single sculling in hope of a medal at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

"It has been a tough decision not to row with Jonny," said Greg, who with his brother produced one of the most dramatic finishes of the 1992 Olympic Games in winning the gold medals in the coxed pairs, and won bronze in Atlanta in the coxless fours. "I am taking a step into the unknown."

The Searles have rowed in the same boat since they were in the British eight in 1990 and have won world or Olympic medals every year since 1991, including the world coxed-pairs title in 1993.

"I really appreciate what a good man Jonny is to have alongside you in a boat. The

British eight has really missed him. If you examine the record since we got together, no British crew has won a (heavyweight) medal that did not include either us or Steve Redgrave or Matthew Pinsent."

Greg, who is seeking sponsorship to take him to Sydney, added: "My next four years should be my best four years. Physically, I can do it. Technically, there's a lot of work to do."

Steve Gunn, who has coached the Searles since their schooldays at Hampton, will coach him. The immediate aim is to beat Peter Haining, the 1993-95 lightweight world champion

who finished 11th in the open event in Atlanta, for the chance to scull for Britain in the 1997 world championships. "If I can't beat Haining I'll be wasting my time," Greg said.

"Haining might as well give up now," said Jonny, who also plans to compete internationally in the single sculls next summer.

As for the Atlanta gold medal winners, Pinsent said last weekend that he would definitely continue rowing, and his partner Redgrave said at a Leander Club Olympic celebration: "I'm not going to make a definite decision for a few months yet."

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مكتبة التاج

Soccer

David Lacey on Glenn Hoddle's World Cup squad to face Poland at Wembley on Wednesday week

Merson back in the England fold

APPLYING the thoroughly Christian principle of welcome back, Paul Merson who once strayed, Glenn Hoddle has recalled Paul Merson to the England squad for the World Cup qualifier against Poland at Wembley on Wednesday week.

Two years ago Merson underwent a rehabilitation programme for drink, gambling and drug problems. The fact that the 28-year-old's selection is no surprise, considering how well he has been playing for Arsenal this season, says everything about the strength of character he has shown in shaking off the fearful, heavy image he presented in the world shortly before Christmas in 1994.

"Paul has come back this season leaner than ever and performed extremely well," Hoddle explained when he announced the squad in London yesterday. "It's the reason I've brought him back into the squad. It's nothing to do with other situations. "But I'm glad he's put things right. It's a great example for people not in the public eye who are going through similar problems. It's all credit both to the lad and the people who stood by him and gave him help."

It is also a reward for the Football Association's tolerant attitude towards Merson and especially the faith Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, had in the player's ability to pick up the threads of his footballing career once he had completed a course of treatment.

He is in the squad because Hoddle has lost Steve Stone, out for the season at Nottingham Forest, and Darren Anderton, the injury-prone Nottingham winger who is facing yet another long operation. If Hoddle had any lingering doubts about Merson's form they surely vanished with Wednesday's excellent goal against Borussia Mönchengladbach in Cologne in the UEFA Cup.

"He's a player who can score goals from all positions," Hoddle pointed out, "but he's also worked extremely hard defensively, which has helped his all-round game."

Merson last played for England in May 1994. It was Terry Venables's second game in charge and Greece were easily beaten 5-0 in a friendly. The Arsenal man won his first of his 14 caps as long ago as September 1991, when Graham Taylor picked him against Germany at Wembley.

With David Beckham making a strong case for retention, especially after his excellent performance for Manchester United against Rapid Vienna in the Champions League on Wednesday, and Steve McManaman, who like Robbie Fowler missed the qualifier in Moldova through injury, available again, Merson will do well to win a



Cold front... Hoddle, the England coach, feeling the chill in London yesterday as he gets ready to announce his England squad. PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

place in Hoddle's starting line-up. But should England suffer another spate of withdrawals after the weekend programme his chances will be enhanced.

Another Arsenal man, David Platt, is back in the squad after injury, but there is no place for Tony Adams, Merson's club captain, who has just declared himself an alcoholic. Adams was England's inspiring leader in the 1990 European Championship but has only just returned to the Arsenal side after another knee operation.

This, rather than his personal problems, is the reason for his omission now. "I just felt he hadn't had enough

senior games," said Hoddle. "This fixture has come a little too soon for him."

Tactically, however, with England's new coach opting for a three-man defence plus wingbacks, Adams is in danger of being left behind. As if to emphasise the way things are shaping up, Hoddle has included Dominic Matteo, Liverpool's 22-year-old Scottish-born left-back.

Matteo's recent Premiership performances, and in particular his contribution to last Saturday's 5-1 win against Chelsea, have clearly impressed Hoddle. "This kid is in superb form," the England coach observed.

On an anorak note, if Matteo does win his first cap he will be only the fifth England player whose name ends with the letter "O". The others are Atyeo, Shellito, Dorigo and Salako.

Domonic Matteo, who was spotted by Liverpool's then manager Kenny Dalglish and joined the Anfield staff when he was 16, to be given his debut by Graeme Souness in 1993, said he was "shocked and surprised" by his England selection.

The gaffer (the current manager Roy Evans) took me aside after training and said: 'Congratulations. I said: 'What for?' He said: 'You're in the England squad.' I couldn't believe it. I'm made up."

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Rugby Union

Wales accuse Dourthe of spitting

Wales will today decide whether to ask France to take disciplinary action against the centre Richard Dourthe after an alleged spitting incident during Wednesday's international in Cardiff.

The allegation was made by the Wales fly-half Neil Jenkins concerning a set-to in the first half after Dourthe had late-tackled him. The centre was also in the middle of a dispute in the second period after being accused of stamping on his opposite number Leigh Davies.

Dourthe was suspended for a month last season by the French Rugby Federation after being caught on camera stamping on the head of the England No. 8 Ben Clarke in Paris. At the time he said it was a good lesson for him, but he does not appear to have learned from it.

"He is a bit of a wild boy," said Jenkins, "but spitting is not part of the game and it should not be tolerated."

The Wales coach Kevin Bowring said he would make a close study of the match video before deciding whether to ask France to take action.

"I do not want to be seen to be moaning about anything but unfortunately there were some incidents I would like to see again," said Bowring.

One of them involved the France second-row Olivier Merle, like Dourthe no stranger to controversy. Banned for one match last year by the then France coach Pierre Berbizier after throwing a hamstring which left the Wales prop Ricky Evans with a broken leg, he was spoken to by the Canadian referee George Gadovitch earlier in this game after punching the Wales prop Christian Loader.

The France coach Jean-Claude Skrela shared Bowring's disquiet. "I do not like incidents of foul play and my players have to learn how to control themselves," he said. "We gave away far too many penalties which almost cost us the match."

Bowring today names his side to face Italy in Rome a week tomorrow, but he will be without the wing Iwan Evans and Wednesday's captain Nigel Davies, who both suffered leg injuries during the 40-33 defeat. The captain Jonathan Humphreys should be fit again after sitting out this week's international because of a hamstring strain.

Orrell has stepped up their attempt to keep Frano Botica by naming him in their side to face Wasps tomorrow. The League club claim he is still contracted to them, even though he was paraded by Llanelli in front of their supporters before last weekend's victory over Swansea. Llanelli agreed a £75,000 transfer fee with Botica's former club, but Castleford last week and are also expected today to name him in their line-up to play Pontypridd tomorrow.

Boxing

Tyson joins pay-per-view triple bill in Las Vegas

Jack Massarik

Don King makes history of a nominal kind on November 9 when three of his "world heavyweight champions" defend their titles in the same Las Vegas ring.

A great night for world governing bodies — sanctioning fees all around — is guaranteed at the MGM Grand when Mike Tyson defends the World Boxing Association title against Evander Holyfield.

Henry Akinwande (WBO) faces the Russian Alexander Zolkin, and Michael Moore (IBF) meets South Africa's Frans Botha.

The WBC misses out only because Lennox Lewis, rematched with Oliver McColl for the title recently vacated by Tyson, is not managed by King. Just to make sure, though, King last night won purse bids for his fight.

The real problem is that Lewis is signed to another pay-TV network. Speaking of which, British satellite viewers will have to pay \$9.95 (£14.95 on the day of the fight)

Prince Naseem Hamed defends the WBO featherweight title against Remigio Molina of Argentina, and Manchester's Enslay Bingham challenges Ronald Wright of the United States for the WBO light-middleweight title.

Transmission starts at 8pm and in theory could continue until 6am, a 10-hour marathon of "world-title" action that no doubt breaks new ground in the annals of more relevantly, mass marketing.

Strike ballot for PFA members

FOOTBALL LEAGUE members of the Professional Footballers' Association are to be sent ballot forms today seeking support for strike action in the PFA's dispute with the League over television revenue.

League officials, however, believe strike action will be blocked by a successful challenge in the courts.

The PFA assistant chief executive Mick McGuire claimed further talks were futile because no progress had been made in four meetings and insisted the ballot was "the only way forward".

But the League spokesman Chris Hull said talks had been "progressing" and accused the union of ignoring financial realities and pursuing a policy which breached the law.

The dispute centres on the League's unilateral scrapping of its regulation by which the union was entitled to 10 per cent of television income.

The League's deal with BSkyB for live coverage of Nationwide League matches is worth £125 million over five years and the union, which received £550,000 under the previous deal would have received £2.25 million this year had the League honoured the agreement.

The European Commission is to take action unless Uefa changes its allegedly "too strict" broadcasting conditions. Television companies which broadcast Uefa matches have complained they do not have exclusivity rights, and they particularly contest Uefa's sub-licensing conditions which, they say, clash with their own interests.

Scotland stand by back-up trio

Patrick Glenn

SEVERAL members of the Scotland squad named yesterday for the World Cup double-header in Latvia and Estonia will be told to re-establish themselves in the first teams at their clubs or risk being dropped.

Eoin Jess of Coventry, Billy McKinnay of Blackburn and Scot Gemmill of Nottingham Forest were in the squad of 24 named by Craig Brown for the matches with Latvia in Riga next Saturday and Estonia in Tallinn on Wednesday week. But those three, all playing in reserve teams or as substitutes, may soon be overtaken by such challengers as Paul Lambie and Christian Duffly, prospecting with Borussia Dortmund and Derby County respectively.

Jess, McKinnay and Gemmill will travel to the Baltic as cover because Brown seemed likely to have to manage without at least four of the players he has named: Ally McColist, Stuart McCall and Gordon Durie of Rangers and Tosh McKinnay of Celtic.

"I'm keeping faith with these players in the meantime," said the manager, "but they know themselves that can't last."

"They have experience with us and they know what we want and how we work, and may be needed for cover in these matches. But I'll be talking to them when they assemble on Wednesday and letting them know that it is im-

United learn positive lesson to brace them for Turkey

David Lacey says Ferguson's strategy will be crucial to Champions League progress

MANCHESTER United, after their false start in Turin, are up and running in the Champions League. But the length of the gallop will depend as much on their manager's overall strategy as on the tactical nuances of any one match.

At least Alex Ferguson has a chip in the game. United's 2-0 victory over Rapid Vienna at Old Trafford on Wednesday, combined with the 1-0 win Juventus achieved over Fenerbahce in Istanbul, has given him something to play with.

If Juventus continue to win regularly, moreover, leaving United to lead on the leftovers, then a draw would suit both sides when the European Cup holders visit Old Trafford on November 20.

In the meantime United will be meeting Fenerbahce twice, starting in Turkey a fortnight next Wednesday. Four points from a draw and a win and Ferguson will be sitting pretty.

So much depends on the way Ferguson treats his renewed Turkish opposition. Previous United failures — the Champions Cup in 1993 and the Champions League a year later — have seen them share goalless draws with Galatasaray in Istanbul which a more positive approach might have turned into victories.

When United lost 1-0 to Juventus just over a fortnight

Strike ballot for PFA members

whose attack includes the experience of the Bulgarian striker Emil Kostadinov.

Not that the experience of the Bulgarian sweeper Trifon Ivanov counted for much at Old Trafford on Wednesday. No doubt the speed and ingenuity of United's attacks did much to unsettle Rapid at the back but the Austrian champions' supine attitude meant that from the outset a home win was virtually guaranteed.

Vienna were about as anti-United as Rugby's cat of the same name in Rising Damp.

Manchester United should have won by more goals but, with points the priority, the failure of Ole Solskjaer in particular to take more than one of the chances that came his way, this was a minor irritation. The 23-year-old Norwegian is linking well with Cantona and Ryan Giggs and this should continue to see him preferred to Andy Cole in United's starting line-up. When Cole replaced Solskjaer for the last quarter of an hour the line went dead.

David Beckham, by no means United's worst performer in Turin, had an outstanding first half on Wednesday, but the initiative may be spread with which Ferguson's younger players are learning about life in Europe. His goal, United's second, was a prime piece of opportunism.

Yet Beckham, like Gary Neville, will need to curb his yellow-card tendencies. Each is on a booking and Manchester United cannot afford to lose either player through suspension.

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Table with columns: Group, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Groups A, B, C, D.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Group A.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Group B.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Group C.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Group D.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Group E.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Group F.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Group G.

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Group H.

Billiards

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Snooker, India): Cueball-Thomas H. Staudel (Eng) vs D. Jones (Ind) 2-0 (142-142). D. Staudel (Ind) vs C. Smith (Eng) 2-0 (142-142). Cueball-Thomas H. Staudel (Ind) vs D. Jones (Ind) 2-0 (142-142).

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Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE Toronto 10, Detroit 11; Seattle 11, California 2; NY 19, Milwaukee 2 (1st); NY 6, Milwaukee 2 (2nd); Baltimore 2, Boston 2; Cleveland 6, Minnesota 2; Kansas City 2, Chicago 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE Florida 3, Atlanta 0; St Louis 8, Pittsburgh 7 (1st); Cincinnati 4, Chicago 3; Philadelphia 3, Montreal 1; Houston 5, NY 4 (1st); LA 7, San Francisco 2; Colorado 5, NY 3 (2nd).

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The Final Whistle Terry Venables on the future for him and for English football, in the wake of Euro 96. Next Sunday in The Observer

cockles

back

go solo

ASP RUGBY CLUB

Candle glows in Cesarewitch trial, page 13

Harrington warms the cockles, page 14

Merson back in England fold, page 15

Wales accuse Dourthe of spitting, page 15

SportsGuardian

European Cup Winners' Cup, first round, second leg: Liverpool 3, MyPa-47 1 (agg: 4-1)

Berger king of Anfield

Czech sends brave Finns packing

Ian Ross

THE floodgates were never forced open but Liverpool moved smartly forward into the next round of the Cup Winners' Cup last night. It took more effort than had been anticipated but the spirited challenge of their game Finnish opponents took time to be subdued.

Success in football is relative and it was with a feeling of genuine achievement that the players of MyPa, emerged from the tie's first leg in the forest lands of southern Finland a fortnight earlier. Though they had lost, it was only narrowly and, as their coach Harri Kampman remarked afterwards, to lose to Liverpool by a solitary goal is perhaps more memorable than to defeat opponents of lesser pedigree comfortably.

As expected, MyPa's ambition embraced little beyond the preservation of the self-respect with which they began what was always going to be a difficult evening. Kampman, an astute man, had said beforehand that to attack would be gross stupidity. His side was to heed the warning.

Like all Scandinavian teams who live with the somewhat misleading label of part-timers, MyPa constantly seek to extend themselves in a tactical sense and, as in the first meeting, their football was neat if almost devoid of threat.

In defensive terms they were fortunate that Robbie Fowler was missing from the Liverpool team sheet for the first time since March 1994, a sequence of 129 senior games. Fowler had turned an ankle in training, which at least



Finnish finished... Patrik Berger, watched by Collymore, scores after 18 minutes to put Liverpool 2-0 up on aggregate

MICHAEL STEELE

presented Collymore with another opportunity to remind his countless detractors that he is still part of Anfield's fixtures and fittings, albeit in a decorative sense most of the time.

As against Chelsea at the weekend, much of Liverpool's football was irritatingly fractured, unnecessary elaboration serving only to reduce

the effectiveness of attacks; for the most part they seemed to have been assembled rather than conceived.

Liverpool asked most of their more pertinent questions down the flanks. With the Finns strangely reluctant to monitor the progress of McTeer and Bjornebye, there was a steady stream of crosses into the heart of the

penalty area. They all came to nothing though Bjornebye, whose goal had divided the teams two weeks earlier, did almost squeeze in a shot from an unsympathetic angle on 11 minutes.

It was dull stuff and the crowd was growing restless until Liverpool's new golden boy Patrik Berger lifted the evening out of the mundane after 18 minutes. After collecting Moore's hasty and ill-advised pass out of defence Berger slipped the ball through the legs of Viljanen before clipping a left-foot shot inside a post. It was a breath-taking piece of improvisation and the young Czech's fifth goal in three games. Even Collymore was moved to applaud.

The tie was now all but decided and, with the possibility of elimination virtually removed, Liverpool began to blossom.

MyPa's counter-attacks became less and less frequent as their stamina began to wane and their concentration to wander. An audience twice the anticipated size finally

managed to warm to a match of no great quality if only because, with Liverpool enjoying so much possession, further goals seemed likely. But the game had descended to its 50th minute before the MyPa defence was breached a second time.

A precise and patient passing sequence just outside the penalty area ended with Barnes threading the ball through to Collymore, who converted stylishly from no great distance. Five minutes later, almost as if to renew the tie's competitive edge, Liverpool carelessly conceded a goal. Mauri Keskitalo sweeping in majestically after Barnes had conceded possession.

Barnes made amends with 13 minutes remaining when he arrived in the penalty area to side-foot home a McManaman cross.

Liverpool: James McAleer Wright (Goalie); Sami Manso (Puddock); 78; Bjornebye; McManaman; Barnes; Thomas; Berger; Redknapp; 79; Collymore. MyPa: 47; Isachen; Kaupinen; Moore; Matti; Viljanen; Peltti; Stronheim (Kangas); 82; Koskenkorva; Anttonen; 83; Keskitalo; 84; Referee: S. Simola (Belarus)

Cows in Spain are plainly not mad enough



Vincent Hanna

READ recently that the Spanish are getting worked up about mad cows: they can't get enough of them. The Spanish fighting bull gets its ferocious temperament through the female line. Breeders are, however, being accused of selecting docile cows and producing a generation of laid-back toros disinterested in going. It is a national scandal.

I decided to say nothing about it. In our house, to mention bullfighting is to risk being trampled to death.

Then I saw that Francisco Gazequez, 48, a bricklayer and former torero, was asked to make a comeback when some stars failed to turn up in Valencia. He needed the money (£400), ran out to plant the *banderillas* (ribboned darts) in the bull's back and was promptly gored to death.

I didn't mention it at home because the same thing would have happened to me.

But the other night I was in a Paris hotel and could not sleep. I flicked through the satellite channels and froze with a long-forgotten feeling of excitement and dread.

There was a bullfight on Spanish television and a lanky 22-year-old called Jesulin de Urbique was beginning the dance of death.

The bull was superb, 1200 lb of angry muscle, charging at the smallest twitch of the cape. My stomach churned with distaste, as it had during those long, teenage summers when I trailed around Spain pretending I was Ernest Hemingway. But I watched on, as I had then, and marvelled anew.

What I am about to write may give offence, certainly it will be misunderstood. I may be locked in my shed for a fortnight. But once I fancied myself as an aficionado of the art. I saw Dominguin fight in Madrid. I cheered Ordonez in San Sebastian, I booed El Corcobes in Majorca.

Bullfighting is not sport, it is a spectacle that fits perfectly within the Spanish psyche; a ritual about the death for which all life is but a preparation. "Life levels all men," wrote Shaw, "death reveals the eminent."

So it is in the Plaza de Toros.

The bull must die, and so too might the torero. How each confronts that prospect is everything to the Spaniard.

It is pointless to make comparisons, useless to become entangled in English feelings about cruelty. A waste of time to mention fox hunting, badger baiting and the drowning of kittens. Our morality is not better, it is different.

We eat the flesh of animals that go shrieking to a degrading death in disgusting abattoirs. We hunt foxes for fun and call it pest control. We feed herbivores the diseased entrails of animals and make mad cows. Oh, and my family adores foie gras.

Yet bullfighting grows ever more popular in Spain; more than 33,000 bulls were killed this year and the prime minister José Maria Aznar and King Juan Carlos have been following the duels of Enrique Ponce and Jesulin.

The bulls were the subject of my first piece of journalism, aged 15, in our school magazine. And in Paris at 1.25am I remembered why.

For here was a great bullfighter risking everything. The last 15 minutes of the bull's life were as frightening as anything I have seen.

First Jesulin stood unprotected, close to the bull, then he offered the *muleta* (the red, triangular piece of cloth) in front of his body, encouraging the bull to charge him. Only in the last second did he divert the horns past him.

I watched him complete seven passes and each time he should have been gored. Then he did four more, while kneeling.

The bull seemed hypnotised. Jesulin broke the bull's nose, held one of the horns in his fingers, turned his back and walked slowly away.

The bull remained still.

DO NOT ask me to explain or to comprehend the struggle, let alone justify it. I cannot. Yet somehow, in a flickering moment, I understood the meaning of courage and grace.

When Jesulin killed with a single sword-thrust between the horns, I wept for the bull and for myself. For I will never show such bravery, and surely I will not die so well.

You may wish to protest about this, but don't write to me. Try the EU Agricultural Commissioner. After all, you're paying for it: the Common Agricultural Policy gives £10 to Spanish breeders for every fighting bull they turn out.

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Guardian Crossword No 20,769
Set by Custos

Across

- A pile for burning almost in the middle of a great monument? (7)
- Vessel having a lot of success in refurbished cafe? (7)
- School's head hasn't the power, being poorly supplied? (5)
- English royal title once translated roughly as Bad Walter? (9)
- Small space to lay down hoty man's sweat? (10)
- Engaged in doing gartee exercises with love? (2,2)
- A prison officer, not strict, showing mental confusion? (1,5,5)
- Where one may live with partner initially in vice, panicking? (2,1,4,4)
- Set one's face in the opposite direction? (4)

Down

- To circulate I'm getting everywhere? (6)
- Late changes in railway property? (6)
- Mother and I collaborate in an important degree? (10)
- Travelled by Underground, upset in the beginning? (6)
- Flee rashly with bloke round the East and have a sense of humiliation? (4,5)

6 Guided about women, unchaste (4)
7 Imprint of publisher, a firm getting cut, working without pay (8)
8 Edible shellfish only eaten by sailors (8)
13 Flattered, having a tart with Helen and Teddy (10)
18 Contract a minor settlement - that's the argot about getting senile (5,4)
16 Seeker of booty, for example, turning up in support (8)
17 Rang about Violet and made trifling objections (9)
19 Student follows the code, Capital (10)
20 Violent tale about origin of murder (6)
23 Top of cliff abandoned - crack visible (5)
24 The crown came unstuck (4)

Solution tomorrow

مركزنا للتعليم